

Fierce fighting forces 6,000 Kabulis to flee

MATEEN IIAIDER

ISLAMABAD—"Since the beginning of the current year some 600,000 citizens of Kabul have fled their homes and most of them took shelter with their friends and relatives in other cities due to fierce fighting among various warring factions of Afghanistan", this was revealed by International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in its latest report on Afghanistan titled as 'Special Report, Afghan Conflict'.

Report was released in Islamabad, and its copies were sent to UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali, and government of Pakistan as well.

The report said that the capital of Afghanistan has ruined by the warring factions, the battle for power was still going on claiming hundreds of civilians lives and countless casualties. Since mid-March fighting has been concentrated on the city's front lines. Some parts of the capital have be-

come full-fledged war zones, devoid of their civilian population.

Report further said that on June 25, 1994 the eastern part of the capital, which was safe, became target of new offensive, and this new offensive led to indiscriminate shelling on the whole of the Afghan capital. The outskirts of the city have also been repeatedly hit over the past few weeks, particularly the south of the city.

According to the report, Baghlan, Doshi, Kunduz, Pul-i-Khumri Tagab valley and Mazar-i-Sharif have been completely destroyed by heavy bombardment. On April 28, 1994, 28 people were killed by heavy rocket firing from nearby artillery positions.

Report said that about 100,000 people from capital Kabul were being cared for by UN in a camp at Sar Shahi, 25 km away from Jalalabad. Sixty thousand other people have sought refuge in the destroyed buildings of the capital Kabul, by taking severe risk of their lives.

4 AUG 1994

THE NEWS
R'Pindi/Islamabad.

India seeking permission to open consulate in Jalalabad

From Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: The Indian government is seeking the permission of Afghan authorities to open its consulate in Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan.

If allowed, it would be the first time since India's independence in 1947 that New Delhi would gain a diplomatic presence in an Afghan province bordering Pakistan. Past Afghan governments, ranging from Zahir Shah's monarchy to Sardar Daoud's republican government to the communist regimes of Nur Mohammad Taraki, Hafizullah Amin, Babrak Karmal and Dr Najibullah never allowed India to open a consulate in Jalalabad as they were aware of Pakistan's opposition to any such move.

India in recent years ran an embassy in Kabul and didn't have any consulate in any part of Afghanistan. Pakistan, besides its embassy in Kabul, had consulates in Jalalabad and Kandahar. After the installation of the Afghan mujahideen government in Kabul and emergence of General Rasheed Dostum as a major military force in northern Afghanistan, Pakistan was allowed to open another consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif.

As Afghanistan had a consulate in Bombay apart from its embassy in New Delhi, India is reportedly seeking to open a consulate somewhere in Afghanistan. The best place to do so seems to be Jalalabad, which is the central place in eastern Afghanistan, has remained largely peaceful under a joint Shura comprising all seven major mujahideen groups, is a big trading and commercial centre, has a functioning airport, radio and television station and a university, and is located on the busy Peshawar-Kabul highway.

Moreover, the city has grown in importance due to shifting of the operations of the Ariana Afghan Airlines, Afghanistan's national carrier,

from war-battered Kabul to Jalalabad. Ariana flights for New Delhi, Dubai and other destinations now use the Jalalabad airport, whose runway was widened recently with Saudi help to enable bigger planes to land and take-off from there. Haji flights were also arranged to and from Jalalabad this year.

It was learnt that the Indians were lobbying both the Rabbani government and the Nangarhar Shura for permission to open its consulate in Jalalabad. The Indian arguments for opening a consulate in Jalalabad are that it would facilitate granting of visas for India to the growing number of Afghan traders, government officials, refugees, students and tourists planning to fly to New Delhi from Jalalabad. Presently, Afghans travelling to India from Jalalabad are given Indian visas at New Delhi airport, an unusual facility aimed at winning over the Afghans.

It was understood that the Rabbani government is favourably inclined towards permitting the Indians to open their consulate in Jalalabad. However, the Rabbani government owing to its weak presence in Nangarhar province cannot grant permission unless allowed by the Nangarhar Shura headed by Haji Abdul Qadeer.

Qadeer, who belongs to Hezbe-Islami (Khalis) and belongs to a powerful Afghan family, has proved himself to be a shrewd politician and administrator as the de facto Governor of Nangarhar and head of the joint Shura of the three eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman. He has been able to keep friendly ties with both Rabbani and his arch-rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and has stayed clear of the inter-mujahideen disputes. Moreover, he has also maintained good ties with Pakistani authorities. He still maintains a house and office in Peshawar, where his family has vast contacts with resourceful Pakistanis.

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PAKISTAN
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THE PAKISTAN TIMES
ISLAMABAD

7/31

Afghan politicians for Loya Jirga to resolve problems

ISLAMABAD, July 30: Three Afghan political parties, known as neutral parties, want to convene a meeting inside Afghanistan in a bid to resolve the outstanding problems of the country, says a Voice of America report.

Special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Mehmoed Mestiri may visit Jalalabad soon and also try to bring peace in the country.

A source close to National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) and Harkat-i-Inqalabe Islami said that Pir Gilani of NIFA Maulvi Mohammadi of Harkat-i-Islami have been busy in consultation for some time now to try to convene a loya jirga inside Afghanistan to explore ways and means for solving the problems of that country. Efforts are continuing to persuade other Mujahideen

organisations to participate in the meeting. Uptil now six other organisations, including Milli Islami Jaumbash; have agreed to attend the meeting.

President Rabbani and Prof. Rasool Sayyaf have also been contacted in this connection and formal invitations have been extended to them. Mr. Rabbani confirmed whether a commission has been authorised to invite Afghans living abroad to the meeting.

Meanwhile, head of the special UN delegation for Afghanistan, Mehmoed Mestiri would visit Jalalabad soon to hold talks with officials of the area about the possibility of opening of a UN office in Jalalabad. He will also talk about the Kabul refugees affairs and peace in the country.—APP.



Uzbekistan supports UN efforts for peace in Afghanistan

THE FRONTIER POST
PESHAWAR

04 AUG 1994

Masood suspected in commander Nasir's killing

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 3: Engineer Ahmed Shah Masood mass-terminated the assassination of commander Nasir of Hizb-i-Islami after his failure to win his loyalties for Jamiat-i-Islami.

Commander Nasir of Hizb-i-Islami (Hikmatyar) and his eight body guards were killed in an ambush by engineer Qarar's men affiliated with Jamiat-i-Islami. Commander Nasir was returning from a dinner hosted by engineer Qarar.

Masood offered huge amount to commander Nasir to curry his favour but could not succeed. He, therefore, resorted to assassinate commander Nasir to gain control of Laghman province. Commander Nasir was very effective in Laghman and had not allowed Rabbani's nominee to function in the province. Ahmed Shah Masood also provided a helicopter to commander Qarar to escape to Kabul as Wali of Laghman Haji Abdullah Jan was spear-heading the hunt for Engineer Qarar. In order to create favour in the area Ahmed Shah Masood also sent two fighter aircraft to fly over Laghman and provide assistance to engineer Qarar's men if required. The assassination has resulted severe clashes between followers of Hizb-i-Islami and Jamiat-i-Islami in Laghman province. Governor Haji Qadeer who is a head of three eastern provinces Ningrahar, Kunar and Laghman is trying to bring an early end to the hostilities. However, it is not likely as Hizb-i-Islami will not settle short of bringing Qarar to book.—APP

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — Uzbekistan has assured full support to the UN Special Mission on Afghanistan in its efforts to promote rapprochement and conciliation in the war-shattered Afghanistan through dialogue.

The spokesman of the special mission and senior political advisor in Office of the Secretary General for Afghanistan and Pakistan (OSGAP) Francis Okelo told PPI here Wednesday that the special mission led by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri paid a 2-day visit to Uzbekistan and held wide ranging talks with the Uzbek leadership on various aspects of the Afghan issue.

He said the mission which returned here Wednesday afternoon had consultations with Uzbek President Islam Karimov, Foreign Minister Said Kasimov and other senior officials of the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Describing the visit as very constructive and fruitful, Okelo said both the Uzbek president and foreign minister expressed full support to the mission and said their country was ready to extend

whatever help and assistance was required to resolve the Afghan crisis.

"The mission leader assisted by its deputy leader and personal representative of the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan and Pakistan Sotirios Mousouris and Pakistan Sotirios Mousouris, had fruitful and substantive exchange of ideas with Uzbek leaders", Okelo said, adding the role of the neighbouring countries in pushing forward the peace process in Afghanistan was also discussed in detail.

He said on Monday Sotirios Mousouris travelled to Peshawar where he had a series of meetings with Afghan leaders, former president Professor Sibghatullah Mujaddadi, Maulvi Muhammad Younus Khalis and Haji Qadeer Khan, governor of Nangarhar province.

He said during these meetings, the situation presently prevailing in Afghanistan came under intensive discussion with particular reference to various steps that could be taken to convene loya jirga for settlement of the problem as desired by most of the Afghan groups and the people.

Okelo said the issue of transitional arrangements that should be put in place while preparations were made to convene a loya jirga, was also one of the topics discussed during Mousouris's meetings with the Afghan leaders in Peshawar.

He said there were a number of common grounds now emerging for the solution of the Afghan problem, adding the mission was exchanging views with Afghans on these common grounds as well.

It may be recalled that Mestiri had earlier visited the region in March this year and held detailed talks on the Afghan issue with Afghan leaders based in Afghanistan and Pakistan as well as the leadership of all the concerned countries including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Russia.

An interim report based on the findings of Mestiri's first round of visit had already been published and released. Mestiri's second visit is a continuation of his efforts to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Anti-Rabbani forces seek UN, OIC help to convene grand assembly

M I HASSAN

PESHAWAR—In their bid to counter the Ilerat Conference's peace proposals, the anti-Rabbani forces are hectically engaged in garnering support of the UN and OIC to convene a grand assembly of the Afghan factional leaders, commanders and intellectuals in the near future, inside Afghanistan.

The Afghan factions who have escalated their efforts for holding a grand peace conference include Hizb Islami of Engineer Hekmatyar, Shiite Hizbe Wahdat of Ustad Mazari, National Islamic Liberation Front of Prof Mujaddadi and Jumbish Nilli of ex-commander Afghan warlord General Dostum. These four factions form supreme coordination council (SCCIRA) battling for the last seven months to unseat Afghan President Rabbani.

The other three neutral Afghan

factions which also favour the convening of a grand peace conference include Harakate Islami of Sheikh Asif Mohsini, Harakate Inqilabi of Maulvi Muhammad Nabi Mohammadi and National Liberation Front of Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani.

The latter three factions have proposed convening of a grand jirga to be held inside Afghanistan preferably at Jalalabad. The proposed joint commission to be consisted of 2 representatives of each of the Afghan factions would recommend transfer of power to a neutral and broad-based government, to be entrusted with the work of holding elections, demilitarisation of Kabul and other cities.

Ustad Saeed Isha spokesman while talking to *Pakistan Observer* Thursday said that efforts were underway to muster the support of the UN and OIC for convening of the proposed grand peace confer-

ence under the auspices of a 'joint commission' representing all the Afghan factions.

He said that basically the proposal for the constitution of a joint commission had come from the three Afghan factions which are impartial in the on-going power tussle between Prof Rabbani and Hekmatyar whose tenure as president and prime minister have expired on June 28.

He expressed hope that their efforts would bear fruit and a grand peace conference would soon be held inside Afghanistan preferably at Jalalabad, capital of eastern Afghan province, Ningrahar.

The move is basically aimed at countering the recently concluded peace conference in Ilerat which was mostly attended by the pro-Rabbani men both inside and outside the war-ravaged country.



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4 AUG 1994

THE NATION
LAKHORE

Overseas delegates criticise Afghan leaders' meeting

HERAT, Afghanistan (AFP)—The delegates of an Afghan council held here flew back into exile abroad, carrying gifts of Holy Qurans and prayer mats, after calling a national assembly to elect a replacement for President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Rabbani, who heads the Jamiat-i-Islami faction, was to have ended his Presidential term in June along with that of arch rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the country's nominal prime minister.

Hekmatyar and ex-communist Uzbek General Ahmed Rashid Dostam have been fiercely battling Rabbani and his allies since January 1 for control of the government.

But many of the 100-odd expatriate Afghan delegates at last week's 'shoora', a nationwide council of provincial military and religious representatives, left this western provincial capital with the impression that their meeting was flawed.

Hosted by Herat's governor, Jamiat-i-Islami faction commander Ismael Khan, the shoora resolved to convene a National Assembly, or 'Loya Jirga', by the end of October to elect a replacement for Rabbani.

The decision was aimed at bringing an end to the current power struggle among the mujahadeen factions which have waged a sporadic, fratricidal civil war since they toppled the former communist regime in Kabul in April 1992.

Former Afghan prime minister Mohammad Yousuf, a doctor who has been living in exile in Germany

since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and is a proponent of the Loya Jirga peace process, recognised the difficulties of organising the Herat shoora.

"It was not an ideal shoora, not fully representative of the Afghan nation," Yousuf told AFP.

Another expatriate delegate said: "The proceedings were one-sided, tilted to one party — Jamiat.

"In this way the shoora was denied a broad-based consensus on vital issues under discussion."

As prime minister of Afghanistan's first freely-elected parliament, in 1965 during the reign of King Zahir Shah, Yousuf expressed concern that Hekmatyar, and other mujahadeen faction leaders now resident in Pakistan, had not attended the shoora.

Yousuf also questioned the wisdom of excluding Dostam.

Several other German-based Afghan exiles, while acknowledging that Hekmatyar and another ally, Hezb-i-Wahdat leader Abdul Ali Mazari, were invited to Herat, remained skeptical about the shoora's impartiality.

A medical colleague, who challenged the extension of Rabbani's tenure, said he had earlier been told the Herat shoora would nominate an interim President to replace Rabbani until the Loya Jirga convened.

"We came to Herat to witness a peaceful transfer of power by Rabbani, which didn't take place," the doctor said.

response. Besides the Coordination Council headed by Gulbadin Hekmatyar of the Hazbe Islami, General Rashid Dostam has conveyed the readiness to attend the seminar.

Similarly, the representatives of the tripartite group who were already in Kabul, have also been received well by the Presidency and its allies suggesting that the Jalalabad seminar is likely to produce much better results than what has been achieved at the recently concluded exercise in Herat.

The Herat gathering had been initiated by the Governor of that province Ismail Khan. Though well attended by the Afghans from home and abroad, it failed to produce anything concrete due to the general impression, which somehow, was not very wrong that it was a one sided gathering. The Herat seminar was dominat-

6 AUG 1994

Shura formed to resolve Afghan conflict

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—In a bid to build up consensus amongst the Afghans to find out a political settlement of the Afghan conflict, the elders of Khogyani tribe, spread over three districts of border Nangarhar province of Afghanistan have formed their own Shura with Haji Khanzada as its head.

The newly-formed Shura is establishing contacts with leaders and the members of Afghan Shura, Jehad

and political organisations the said Shura recently handed over a text of its proposals for settlement of the Afghan conflict to Mr Sotirios Mousouris, representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Haji Khanzada head of the newly-formed Shura talking to *The Nation* on telephone informed that through the said formula they had suggested transfer of power to an impartial body to rule Afghanistan for at least two years.

THE NATION
LAKHORE

7 AUG 1994

Afghan commander kidnapped

F.P. Report

A prominent Afghan commander, Anwar Khan Jagdalag has been kidnapped by unknown persons, the Jamiat sources said in Peshawar on Saturday.

Anwar Khan was forcibly picked up from his Islamabad residence at about 6:00 a.m., the sources added.

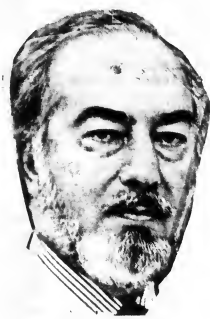
Anwar Khan is known for his key role against the Russian invaders in Afghanistan. Anwar,

who represented the Jamiat in the Afghan war, had several victories on his credit.

The sources said that Anwar returned Islamabad on Saturday after attending olympic organisers meeting at Tokyo.

The Jamiat sources quoted Anwar's bodyguard as saying that some plainclothes persons forcibly entered his house after introducing themselves as FBI men. It is said that Anwar was to leave for Kabul by an Ariana plane on Saturday afternoon.

The Jamiat sources said that they had not informed police about Anwar's abduction.

THE FRONTIER POST
PESHAWAR

Pir Gailani

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THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

Major Afghan groups to attend Jalalabad seminar

MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, August 3: The Afghan neutralists comprising the National Liberation Front, the Harkate Inqilabe Islam and the Harkate Islami (Shiites) have reportedly succeeded in securing the support of all the major groups for the grand national seminar proposed to be held in Jalalabad in search of a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

No dates have yet been fixed for the seminar but tentatively it has been scheduled later this month or early September.

The three leaders of the aforesaid Afghan groups Syed Ahmad Gilani, Maulvi Nabi Mohammad and Asif Mohsini, who have been in contact on the subject with the rest of the leadership in and outside Afghanistan have claimed to have received positive

ed by pro-Rabbani groups.

According to the Jamiat sources in Peshawar, President Rabbani was not averse to the proposed moot in Jalalabad but he had not yet formally conveyed his consent.

The selection of the venue this time also suggested a positive outcome as the "safe haven" under the command of Governor Qadeer, has also been maintaining strict neutrality in the post accord conflict between the major Afghan groups. Haji Qadeer was said to have told sponsors that he was prepared to provide all possible assistance for any initiative for peace and settlement without taking sides. The seminar, according to the neutralists, would in all probability, constitute a broad-based grand Jirga through consensus to draw the blue prints for the peace and settlement plan.

From Behroz Khan

Indian efforts to open consulates in Afghanistan

PESHAWAR: The Indian government is making all-out efforts to compete with Pakistan in the race to open consulates in all strategically important cities in a decentralised Afghanistan.

Though Pakistan enjoys an edge over its arch rival due to geographical and cultural links with Afghanistan, India has also been showing progress on this front for the past year.

Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's government has successfully resumed relations with Afghanistan's mujahideen government headed by President Burhanuddin Rabbani. Diplomatic relations between the two countries became strained in April 1992 when Dr Najibullah stepped down as president of Afghanistan.

Apart from Pakistan's reservations about Afghanistan granting India permission to open a consulate in Jalalabad, the capital of the eastern Nangarhar province bordering the NWFP,

India seems optimistic about opening a consulate in Herat, the sources claimed.

A high-level Indian delegation was in Herat last week to meet the governor, Commander Ismail Khan, and seek his permission for a Indian diplomatic mission in that province. Pakistan's Colonel Inam, the source added, arrived in Herat two days ago and was searching for a building to hire for a consulate.

Herat seems to have become the focus of attention for both Pakistan and Iran following the recent developments in the Herat conference. Reports say the participants of the pro-Rabbani conference chanted anti-Pakistan and anti-Iran slogans and held the two countries responsible for the ongoing uncertainty in Afghanistan. Turkmenistan, the sources claimed, was supplying oil and other material assistance to Ismail Khan to help maintain his military might in Herat.

The visit of the Indian delegation

coincided with President Rabbani's air dash to Herat. It is still not known whether Rabbani gave the Indians an audience in Herat or whether the delegation was granted permission to open a consulate in the province.

The Nangarhar shura, headed by Haji Abdul Qadeer, has reportedly refused to allow the Indians to open a diplomatic mission in Jalalabad. India has recently requested the Nangarhar administration to grant permission but has in the past been discouraged by successive Afghan governments which could not afford to befriend India at the expense of Pakistan.

Besides Kabul, India had a consulate at Kandahar which was closed down during Dr Najibullah's government, followed by the closing down of the Indian embassy in Kabul in 1992.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are also racing to open diplomatic missions in Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif and any other spot which has geographical, lingual or sectarian importance.

11 killed in Kabul rocket attack

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — At least 11 people were killed and 20 injured when the Afghan capital Kabul came under a rocket attack by opposition forces Saturday, state-run Radio Kabul reported.

The broadcast, monitored here, said that some 20 rockets fired by troops loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of the Hezb-i-Islami faction, and his ally, ex-communist general Abdul Rashid Dostam, hit residential parts of the city.

The radio also reported fighting between government forces and the militias of Dostam and Hekmatyar in Doshi, some 185 kilometers (116 miles) north of Kabul, but gave no further details.

THE FRONTIER POST PESHAWAR

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Moderate Afghans off to Kabul for peace

PESHAWAR—In a bid to bring peace to the war-ravaged Afghanistan through a negotiated settlement between Hikmatyar and Rabbani groups, leaders of three main moderate Afghan groups left here for Kabul on Saturday.

Maulvi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, Sheikh Ayatullah Mohseni and Syed Hamid Gillani left for Kabul aboard a special Aryana plane. Harkat-i-Islami's Siddique Chakri and Rehmatullah Wahidiyar who are Ministers in the Rabbani administration accompanied them.

According to reliable sources, the leaders of three moderate Afghan forces during their stay in Kabul will struggle to gain support of Prof Rabbani in favour of holding a peace conference inside Afghanistan. Former Prime Minister and chief of four parties Supreme Coordination Council, Engineer Gulbadin Hikmatyar has already announced his support to the peace efforts of the moderates. The leaders are likely to proceed to Chaharsabz for holding negotiations with Hikmatyar. Some insiders have hoped that efforts of the three moderate parties, would yield positive and fruitful results as they are enjoying support of both the

United Nations and Organisation of the Islamic Countries.

Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, chief of NIFA who assembled these three moderate Afghan groups on one platform has already held detailed meeting with Afghan leaders Prof Sibghatullah Mujaddedi, Maulvi Younas Khalis and others. Gillani also enjoys support of Afghan technocrats and bureaucrats settled in America and Western countries.

Meanwhile, a three-member delegation of Prof Rabbani's administration, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Jalil Shams is visiting Pakistan to woo famous Afghans in favour of the decision taken in Herat conference.

Some Afghan sources informed that beside Dr Jalil Shams, Mousen, Deputy Head of the Herat Corps and Gen Aseemi of Harakat Islami were busy in their efforts aimed at mustering support of the Afghans in favour of Prof Rabbani who through recent Herat conference extended his ruling tenure till October. In October, according to Herat conference decision a 60-member commission will make arrangements to convene a meeting of the traditional Afghan Jirga which will decide about the future of

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the government and structure of Afghanistan. The Afghan delegation arrived in Peshawar on Thursday now negotiating with known Afghan figures in Islamabad.

However, the three-member delegation decided to establish contacts with Afghan Leader. But they will also hold meetings with Afghan leaders based on Peshawar, Quetta and Islamabad.

Some insiders informed that three-member delegation of Rabbani administration is struggling to take most Afghans into confidence before formulation of the proposed *Loya Jirga* and convening its meeting. Prof. Rabbani is struggling to get him elected as President of Afghanistan for another interim period.

However, a spokesman of Prof Rabbani's Jamiat Islami brushed aside this impression and said that in the light of Herat Conference, the 60-member commission will choose members to the proposed *Loya Jirga* and this *Jirga* will decide about the future interim government.

■ 80,000-100,000 people are said to be destitute in Kandahar City, southern Afghanistan. Some have fled fighting, some are returned refugees, and some could not survive on their farms. WFP are planning to provide food aid for them.

Jarchi - August



Moh'd Nabi
Mohammedi



Afghan imbroglio

Ningarhar Shooru steps up efforts to bury the hatchet

PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD.

M HASSAN

PESHAWAR — In the series of what is being termed unyielding peace efforts in the war-battered Afghanistan, the Ningarhar Shooru is reported to have accelerated its efforts to ensuring the participation of Afghan factional leaders, commanders, intellectuals and elite in a seminar, at Jalalabad.

The peace seminar, the date for which is yet to be fixed, is being organised by the Jalalabad administration comprising the Afghan groups from Ningarhar, Kunnar and Laghman provinces.

Earlier, the seminar was to be held in February this year but had to be delayed due to the non-challenge of the warring factions of Hizbe Islami (H) and Jamiate Islami.

According to Afghan sources privy to Ningarhar Shooru and Governor Ningarhar Haji Qadeer of HIA (Khalis), the seminar which is expected to be participated by the Afghan factional leaders, commanders, intellectuals (inside and outside the country) and elite, would discuss the ongoing bloody crisis in the country and find ways and means for the "acceptable" and durable solution to the Afghan crisis.

The sources said the convening of the seminar under the auspices of the Ningarhar Shooru basically aims at having a "live" discussion on the issue and exploring the possibilities of halting the fratricidal war and hammering out a formula with the consent of the Afghan nation.

The sources said that the Shooru would not back any move to hold seminar in Jalalabad which according to them did not reflect the wishes of the suffering Afghan nation, rather it (Shooru) was making efforts to hold a seminar of its own in which all the factional leaders, commanders and intellectuals would participate and try to find ways and means for the permanent solution to the crisis.

It is worthwhile to mention here that the 4-party Supreme Coordination Council (SCCIRA) led

by HIA (H) Chief Hekmatyar and the 3 non-aligned parties — Harkate Inqilabi of Mohammad Nabi, National Liberation Front of Pir Gilani and Harkate Islami of Sheikh Mohsin, are also reported to have stepped up their efforts to hold a seminar in Jalalabad for the formation of the joint commission of Afghan factions which would constitute an interim set up to whom, according to them, power should be transferred.

Their move primarily aims at countering the 65-member commission formed in the 4-day Herat peace conference, which was attended mostly by the pro-Rabbani personalities. All the factional leaders opposing President Rabbani's stay in power, stayed away from the Herat conference, making its recommendations for peace impracticable.

Meanwhile, the Ningarhar Shooru sources when asked to comment over the India's efforts to open consulate in Jalalabad, dispelled the impression (though not categorically). "We are not below salt 'namak haram' as Pakistani government and the people stood by the Afghan Mujahideen and refugees through thick and thin and we would not like to be disloyal to the sacrifices of the Pakistani brethren. "We want fraternal relations between the two countries based on the principles of non-interference and mutual co-existence".

Mestiri working for convening loya jirga on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The leader of the UN special mission to Afghanistan, ambassador Mehmoed Mestiri is working on a plan to bring the Afghan parties or their representatives as well as independents together for preliminary exchange of views on matters pertaining to formation of a preparatory committee by the Afghans themselves.

The spokesman of the special mission Francis Okelo told PPI here Tuesday that if established, the committee would work for convening loya jirga and achieving transitional arrangements for Afghanistan in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people.

Asked as to when and where ambassador Mestiri planned to convene meeting for preliminary exchange of views, Okelo said that a delegation of neutral Afghan parties was currently in Afghanistan and as soon as the delegation returned, the natural parties' supreme coordination council and representatives of Ismail Khan, governor Herat and other Afghan parties, would decide about holding of meeting.

"Every thing will be decided by the Afghans. The UN is there to help the Afghans and push forward peace process," he added.

He said that the delegation of neutral parties was presently

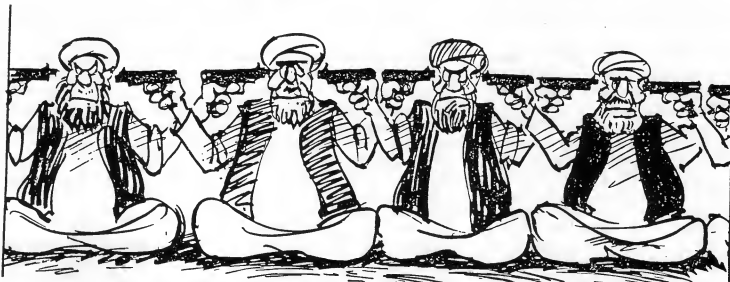
holding discussions with Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani. Okelo said that Mestiri during the past few days held indepth consultations with representatives of various Afghan parties and members of the Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA). He said Mestiri's consultations with these leaders focussed mainly on three points what practical arrangements should be made for convening of loya jirga, what should be the modus operandi for setting up of a preparatory committee and what sort of transitional arrangements be made?

When asked about the response of the Afghan leaders to Mestiri's proposals and suggestions, he said: "We received a lot of support from these leaders" adding that there response had been very positive and encouraging.

Responding to another question that when the UN planned to re-open its offices at Jalalabad (Afghanistan), the spokesman said that the UN had already acquired a building and the offices should be functional within next few days.

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However, they complained about the closure of Pak-Afghan border at Torkham which, according to them, was causing numerous difficulties to the people inside Afghanistan particularly for those fleeing from Kabul due to continued fighting.



Afzal Khan asks UN for safe passage to Najib

THE NATION
LAKHORE

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR — President Pukhtoon Khwa Qaumi Party and Federal Minister Mohammad Afzal Khan has demanded of the UN to provide a safe passage to former Afghan President Dr Najibullah from Kabul. In his letter addressed to UN special representative for Afghanistan Mahmood Mestiri, the Federal Minister while referring to his meeting with elders of Dr Najibullah's Ahmadzai Tribe, said that the continued captivity of Najibullah was a matter of concern.

He said that since Najibullah had stepped down for the maintenance of

peace in Afghanistan.

"Since general amnesty has been granted to all functionaries of the previous regime, step-motherly treatment to Najib is unfair" the letter says. Afzal Khan added that elders of Ahmadzai tribes were worried about the falling health of Najibullah and requested for taking urgent steps on humanitarian grounds to send him for proper treatment abroad.

Mohammad Afzal Khan requested Mahmood Mestiri to take up the matter of providing safe passage to Najibullah on urgent basis with the concerned quarters. He opined any further delay in this regard could threaten Najibullah's life.

Criticising the United Nations peace commission, the press adviser said that Benon Sevon and other UN representatives of the peace mission sabotaged the peace mission and alleged that they were involved in conspiracy to divide Afghanistan on ethnic lines.

In an emotional tone, he said that a conspiracy was underway to divide Afghanistan, however, Hezb-i-Islami would never allow them to do so, he maintained. "Our leadership had refused the offer of Zahir Shah and later Najib to join them in the government. They were RGB agents", he said.

He criticised former king Zahir Shah and said that he was the root-cause of Afghan tragedy and it was his wrong policies and corrupt rule that Afghans faced such situation.

Regarding a question about Loya Jirga, Nawab Saleem termed it a body of dictatorial rule formed for vested interests.

About future relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said the latter was a respectable brother of Afghanistan who helped them in a difficult situation. "We have common interests and a common enemy, India", he observed. He condemned the kidnapping of school bus from Peshawar, damaging of Pakistan embassy in Afghanistan and kidnapping of several people by Mullah Rockett and termed it a conspiracy of RAW, KHAD and other agencies with the help of India.

Prof Rasool Amin, director of Writers Union of Free Afghanistan (WUFA), in his address, highlighted the complications in maintaining peace in Afghanistan.

He warned that destruction of Afghanistan will be the destruction of Asia and it would not remain confined to Afghanistan but would also affect the neighboring countries.

He said that some foreign countries were providing arms to some political parties to use them for their own purpose.

Regarding the solution of Afghan Issue, Prof Rasool said that UN peace mission could make peace in Afghanistan as their was not other way left. "Power struggle has brought nothing but destruction in Afghanistan", he added.

Brig (Retd) M Yousaf spoke about the Afghan history and said that Afghanistan always maintained its independent posture and it was a must for their diplomacy.

He briefed the participants about various regimes and informed

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Dr Azmat Hayat Khan and Miss Talwar Kakar also spoke on the occasion.

He said the Islamabad Accord failed because Ahmad Shah Massoud and Abdul Rasheed Dostum, who were not signatories to the accord.

THE NEWS

R'Pindi/Islamabad. 8/10

5 killed in Kabul flays UN peace mission rocket attack

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: At least five people were killed and more than 20 injured when Kabul was hit by about 25 rockets on Tuesday.

Afghan sources in Peshawar said the rockets landed in and around the Presidency, foreign affairs and defence ministries and Kabul garrison. One rocket hit the car park in front of the Afghan National Bank, causing a huge fire and burning three vehicles.

It was the severest rocketing on Kabul in the past few weeks. President Rabbani's government has blamed Hezb-i-Islami (Hekmatyar) for the rocket attacks on Kabul in the past. The latter has been denying the allegation.

The rocketing took place at a time when moderate Afghan leaders Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi, Shaikh Asif Mohseni and Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaillani's son Hamid Gaillani are visiting Kabul to hold talks with Afghan leaders on how best to resolve the Afghan problems. The delegation is expected to return to Peshawar soon.

From Kosar Naeqi

ABBOTTABAD: Recently approved Supreme Coordination Council will form a broad-based government in Afghanistan, which has been supported by 7 out of 10 political parties.

This was stated by Nawab Saleem, press adviser to Afghan Prime Minister Gulbaddin Hekmatyar while speaking at a seminar at Baragall, organised by Department of International Relations, Peshawar University, in collaboration with the Area Study Centre, Central Asia, Sunday.

The seminar on "The prospects of peace in Afghanistan and Pak-Afghan future relations", was inaugurated by Dr Farzand Ali Durrani, vice-chancellor of Peshawar University.

The adviser to the Afghan PM said that some external powers did not want peace in Afghanistan for their own interests. Afghanistan is full of weapons which was the main hurdle in maintaining peace and one of the aims of Supreme Council would be to disarm the country. The council would also form national army and pave the way for Grand Assembly so that power could be transferred to the elected representatives, he added.

هیچ گل بی خار نیست
"No rose is without thorns"

THE FRONTIER POST

Masood blocks rival factions' advance on Kabul

KHENJAN [Afghanistan] (AFP) — The town was within range of the big Russian-made BM-21 rockets -- at least five shops in the bazaar lay destroyed while the rest were closed and the civilians had fled.

"The people haven't totally evacuated, just scattered to the surrounding villages until the situation here stabilises," said a soldier in camouflage uniform.

Khenjan, some 165 kilometres (103 miles) north of Kabul, was still in the hands of ex-defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood's men, but they had been defeated 20 kilometres (12 miles) up the road at the district centre Doshi and the locals were taking no chances.

Unlike his subordinates in Kabul, Masood, military commander for President Burhanuddin Rabbani, was not coy about losing Doshi, which was captured by a joint attacking force of former pro-communist militias under Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam and Ismaelia religious sect commander Sayyad Jaffar Naderi about a month ago.

"Our side was careless. The enemy's first attacks against us all failed. They were almost defeat-

ed," Masood told AFP. "Then some of my commanders took time off from the battlefield and rested in Doshi."

While some officers cooled their heels, Masood said his rivals attacked from west of Doshi and cut off his forward front lines.

"The enemy got behind us and our supply routes were blocked. This was bad for us," Masood acknowledged.

Yet the former guerrilla leader who gained international fame for his brilliant resistance against the Russians during their 10-year occupation of Afghanistan, claimed not to consider the loss of Doshi as a major defeat.

"We lost some territory but we successfully blocked the enemy offensive," explained Masood.

In the big picture, Masood described a plot by the northern ex-communist forces and their ally Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who leads the Hezb-i-Islami faction, to capture Kabul. The plot called first for wide-scale provincial fighting "in order to scatter our forces," he said.

The attack on Doshi was part of this general plan and even though it was lost, Masood claimed Doshi was costly to his

rivals and they would be able to advance no further towards Kabul.

"This battle cost them very much and they know it," asserted Masood as he ticked off heavy casualties, low morale and a shortage of ammunition in the enemy camp.

"The enemy thought they would face less resistance here than in Kabul. I am sure they have changed their minds," noted Masood.

But Masood is angry at what he calls "the arming of Hezb-i-Islami" by the Pakistan military intelligence agency, known as the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"Only one thing keeps Hekmatyar on his feet -- in the past few days ISI has pumped a lot of cash and ammunition into Hezb," Masood claimed.

As an example, he said 10,000 Egyptian-made long-range "Sakkar" rockets, which the Afghan mujahedeen used against the Russians, had recently been transported from Pakistan to Hekmatyar.

Masood vehemently denied his rivals' claims that he has received foreign military aid in the form of Indian technicians at Bagram air base.

Hekmatyar not wounded: spokesman

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has not been wounded, one of his representatives here said Wednesday, denying a report by the Bakhtar news agency.

Mangal Hussain, a representative of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami faction, said he had spoken to the prime minister by telephone and that Hekmatyar had "not a scratch" on him and was in perfect health.

No independent confirmation was available Wednesday.

Bakhtar, which is controlled by the Jamiat-i-Islami of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, which is fighting the Hezb, reported late Tuesday the prime minister had been seriously wounded in the leg and neck during a bombardment Friday of his headquarters in Charasyab, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of Kabul.

Since the mujahedeen overthrew the former communist government in Kabul in 1992, the two factions have been fighting for control.

THE FRONTIER POST
PESHAWAR

8/18

Afghan mission optimistic about peace prospects in Kabul

PESHAWAR: The three-party Afghan mediation mission which has returned to Pakistan after a visit to Kabul has expressed optimism that a ceasefire and peace would soon prevail in Afghanistan.

Shaikh Asef Mohseni, leader of the Shiite Harkat-i-Islami and a member of the mission, was quoted as telling reporters on Wednesday that President Rabbani has expressed his willingness to agree to the decisions of a commission that would be formed to oversee ceasefire and formation of a Loya Jirga and neutral interim government. The recent conference in Herat called by pro-Rabbani Afghan leader Ismail Khan also proposed formation of a commission to pave the way for a peaceful transfer of power. He said forces opposed to the Rabbani government also favoured formation of such a commission and peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict.

Mohseni was accompanied by Harkat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami chief Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi and NIFA

leader Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaillani's son Hamid Gaillani during the mediation mission. The three moderate, neutral Afghan leaders met representatives of the Rabbani government as well as their oppo-

nents during its two-week stay in Kabul.

Mohseni, however, conceded that formation of a commission acceptable to all sides would be a tricky affair. He said the decisions of the recent Herat conference were also discussed at their meetings.

The mediators were brought in a special military plane from Bagram air base to Peshawar on Wednesday. Pakistan has banned flights of Afghanistan's Ariana Airlines from using its airspace until the renewal of agreement between the two countries on the issue.

Contrary to Mohseni's claims, certain Afghan sources said Rabbani rejected the mediation mission's proposals and made it clear that he was bound to abide by the declaration of the Herat conference

suggesting Rabbani to hand over power to the commission formed and approved by the gathering last month.

The delegation got the same response from Prof Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, the only ally of Rabbani, as well as former defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood.

The special envoy to UN secre-

tary general on Afghanistan, Mahmud Mistiri, is waiting in Islamabad for the return of the delegation which is expected to call on him today.

THE NEWS

R'Pindi/Islamabad.

8/18

25 Afghan nationals detained for travelling illegally

By Javed Jaldi

ISLAMABAD: The immigration authorities at the Islamabad International Airport Wednesday detained 25 Afghan nationals for travelling without legal documents.

Out of the 37 Afghan passengers coming by a special plane of the Saudi Ambassador only 12 had valid documents with them.

The rest of the Afghans travelling without visas and passports were de-

tained. The Afghans had apparently come here to attend the sixth death anniversary of late General Ziaul Haq.

Federal minister for interior Gen. Naseerullah Babar when contacted by a group of journalists to comment on the event said that the government has detained the Afghans because they had tried to enter Pakistan illegally. "Those Afghans who had valid documents were allowed entry and those who had sidelined our law had to face the situation," he said.

Babar added that the government will send the detained Afghans back to their country soon.

To a question about disallowing flights of Afghan airliner to New Delhi, Babar said that this is another precedence of violation of law. He said that the Afghan airliner was flying on the Pak territory without any information or permission.

To a question about arrest of some Afghans in NWFP, General Babar said that only those have been arrested who had plan to enter the capital loaded with arms whereas the government has already declared the capital city as 'arms free zone.' He added that Azam Tariq and Mahmood Khan Achakzai were now moving in the capital without arms and how a foreign national can be allowed to violate the law.

To a supplementary question Babar said that the government needs no special law to ban the movement of loaded persons in Islamabad. He said that exhibition of arms has been banned under Section 144.

MOHAMMAD ALI IMRAN

PESHAWAR, Aug 20: In a fresh bid for permanent truce and a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, the Afghan President Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani has offered chairmanship of the Political Commission formed at the end of the National Seminar of Afghanistan in Herat, to three impartial parties, including Harkate Islami (N uhammad Nabi Group), Harkate Islami (Mohsini Group) and National Islamic Front of Pir Gailani.

The seminar which was attended by several hundred Afghans from in and outside the country, including commanders, religious scholars, educationists, intellectuals, former diplomats and representatives of some of the political parties besides the Provincial Governors had formed a Commission to ensure some per-

8/21

Rabbani invites 3 parties to chair peace body

THE MUSLIM

manent solution to the war shattered country. The Commission was however, without its Chairman right from the beginning.

According to Afghan sources, President Rabbani, though, did not offer to step down but besides offering chairmanship of the Commission to impartial parties assured them of his possible cooperation in all sort of efforts made by them for bringing stability to the war-torn country.

A delegation comprising representatives of the said three parties held a lengthy discussion with Rabbani and Sayyaf a couple of days ago regarding peace in the country.

Though the Afghan President had offered chairmanship of the Commission to the impartial parties which they had accepted with the condition that if Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his allies too en-

dorsed the offer.

It is relevant to mention here that the Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA) led by Hekmatyar had held a meeting with the impartial parties a couple of months ago in Islamabad where deliberations on the future agenda and course of action as well formation of a Commission to call a representative Shura were held. But, the fresh proposal made by President Rabbani did not seem to bear the desired fruit as the Commission formed at end of the National Seminar in Afghanistan had agreed over the formation of Grand Jirga which had already been rejected by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Instead of some Grand Jirga, Gulbuddin had been stressing upon the constitution of a Jirga comprising representatives of the warring factions in Afghanistan only.

20 killed in Kabul rocket attack

8/21

Misouris hopeful of Afghan peace

THE NEWS

Reuter

ISLAMABAD: Twenty people were killed and 49 injured when forces opposed to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani rained rockets and mortar bombs on the capital Kabul on Saturday, the official Kabul radio said.

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, said more than 100 rockets and mortar bombs were fired into Kabul's residential areas by anti-Rabbani militias controlled by Prime Minister Hikmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Some foreign embassies were also hit by rockets and the 20 people were killed by a single rocket falling in front of the Iranian embassy, said the radio, which is controlled by the president.

Our Peshawar Bureau reports: Sitorious Misouris, the UN Secretary General's special envoy for Afghanistan, has stated that reconstruction work in Afghanistan on a large scale would begin once durable peace is restored in the war-ravaged country.

Speaking at the two-day seminar on "Participation in Reconstruction of Afghanistan," in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan, he said the UN was presently involved in humanitarian

assistance for the Afghan people and would undertake reconstruction once peace returns.

He said continued fighting, lack of a central authority, closure of routes and communication problems and insecurity had created hurdles for NGOs wanting to help the Afghans and rebuild Afghanistan.

He felt reconstruction could take place in peaceful areas like Nangarhar province. He said UN peace mission head Mahmoud Mestiri from his base in Islamabad was continuing his meetings with Afghans in a bid to find a peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict. The seminar, which ended on Thursday, was also addressed by Nangarhar Governor Haji Abdul Qadeer. He praised the Afghan NGOs for their efforts to help the needy Afghans to rebuild their lives and their country. He hoped the NGOs would rebuild Afghanistan without taking into consideration ethnic, linguistic, sectarian or regional factors.

The seminar, held at the Spinghar Hotel, was organised by the Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau. It was attended by representatives of about 60 NGOs. The Bureau's chairman, Engineer Mohammad Shah, and several other NGOs officials spoke at the seminar and high-

lighted the problems encountered by them during the course of their work in Afghanistan.

Commanders and officials from Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman provinces also attended the seminar.

Meanwhile, the Shura of Kabul province has called for an end to the bloodshed and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan, especially in the Afghan capital.

The Shura, which comprises Afghan refugees who now live in Peshawar after fleeing the fighting in Kabul, also urged the UN to play its role in finding a peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict. It felt the UN ought to expedite its efforts to restore peace and thus bring to an end the sufferings of the Afghan people.

Shura elders Nisar Ahmad Haris, Syed Mukhtar Anwari and Ms Aziza Sulani in a joint statement also referred to the plight of the newly-arrived Afghan refugees from Kabul and called upon the UN, Pakistan government and the various NGOs to help them in overcoming their ordeal. They said the donors should extend help to Kabulis in Peshawar through their Shura instead of the mujahideen groups or other organisations.



No ban on Ariana flights: Foreign Office

ISLAMABAD (APP) — The foreign office spokesman has contradicted reports appearing in a section of the press that Pakistan has banned ARIANA from using its airspace.

The spokesman pointed out that an ARIANA Afghan airline aircraft requested permission to enter Pakistan airspace on August 12 around sunset time. The pilot of the aircraft informed the aviation authorities that it was overflying Pakistan territory enroute Kabul — Delhi. The aircraft did not have prior clearance from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authorities which is mandatory.

The pilot was asked to return to Afghanistan. He refused on the plea that there were no night landing facilities in Afghanistan. Subsequently, he was allowed to land at the nearest airport, Peshawar. The pilot was told to return to Afghanistan and re-enter Pakistan's airspace after obtain-

ing flight clearance. He was intransigent and did not comply with the request for three days. Finally, he agreed and returned to Afghanistan on August 15 afternoon.

The spokesman clarified that Pakistan had not imposed any ban on ARIANA flights. Any Afghan aircraft in possession of valid flight clearance was being allowed to overfly Pakistan's territory without any hindrance.

The spokesman further explained that the Afghan aircraft, civilian as well as military, had repeatedly resorted to violation of air traffic control procedures and safety requirements, posing a serious security hazard to aviation inside Pakistan's territory.

It is pertinent to recall that Pakistan has repeatedly drawn the attention of the concerned Afghan authorities to the violation of procedures by Afghan pilots. The spokesman expressed the hope that the Afghan civil and military aircraft would in future adhere to the airtraffic control procedures and safety requirements.

FRONTIER POST

8/23 THE MUSLIM

Masood blamed for deaths in cross-border clashes

TASHKENT, Aug 22 (AFP): Uzbekistan said Saturday it was ready to send more military aid to Tajikistan to counter Mujahideen based in Afghanistan, whose latest cross-border incursion this week cost 57 lives.

Some 500 Uzbek border guards are already stationed at the border under the banner of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), alongside thousands of Russian border guards.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Kamilev, announcing the decision at a press conference Saturday, accused Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Masood of being responsible for the tension on the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border.

"A training camp for Tajik opposition forces was recently set up in Afghanistan on Commander Masood's initiative," Kamilev charged, prompting a walk-out by Afghan Ambassador Mohammad Aman, who had been invited to the news conference along with rest of Tashkent's diplomatic community.

"Fighting on CIS territory has already caused the death of tens of thousands of people, the con-

flict in Tajikistan is a test of the determination of the whole of the CIS" to bring an end to the conflict, Kamilev said.

"The CIS border is inviolable, and these constant clashes are a challenge to all of the CIS," he added, noting that ongoing negotiations between the UN and the CSCE (Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe) had so far been "without results."

Seven Russian border guards and 50 Islamic fighters were killed during fighting, from late Wednesday to early Friday, near a border post guarded by Russians.

Uzbek forces intervened at the end of 1992, alongside the Russian army, to return neo-communists to power after being ousted by the Islamic-Democratic alliance.

The authoritarian and neo-communist government in Tashkent openly supports the Dushanbe government against what it perceives to be the Muslim threat to the region.

Apart from the border guards, Tashkent also arms Uzbek villagers in Tajikistan — where a fifth of the population is ethnic Uzbek.

NGOs are rebuilding Afghan eastern areas

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR—While Kabul is in the grip of power-strife between the rival factions, the eastern provinces of Afghanistan are enjoying peace and tranquillity due to which non-governmental organisations (NGOs) funded by UNO and other countries are executing various rebuilding schemes in these provinces.

During a recent visit to Jalalabad, it was witnessed that in the field of agriculture, Nangarhar province has made quite a headway. All bazars and shopping centres are flooded with locally produced vegetables and fruits. Even a number of farmers is importing fruits and vegetables to other provinces.

Recently, the administrative shura of three provinces included Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman formed one Eastern Council. The said Council is headed by Governor of Nangarhar province Haji Abdul Qadeer Khan and is providing security to volunteers of the NGOs with the support of the administrative council, the volunteers of the NGOs are reconstructing roads, repairing bridges, schools, hospitals and irrigation channels.

These organisations are also extending help to more than 200,000 war-displaced people of Kabul who are accommodated in several camps around Jalalabad Town. These agencies including World Health Organisations, World Food Programme and the UNHCR are working in close

coordination with one another.

Notable among the NGOs is, German-Afghan Nothilfe. Till previous July, this NGO has completed about 122 projects in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, education, health, communication, etc.

Syed Fazal Ullah Wahidi, Director of the German-Afghan Nothilfe for Afghanistan informed that besides playing a vital role in the reconstruction process, the German-Afghan Nothilfe running hospitals each in Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. He said that more than ten schools and three Teachers Training Centres are functioning under its supervision. He said that basic objectives of the German-Afghan Nothilfe is to enable Afghans to create job-oriented projects like agriculture, dairy, poultry, etc. He said the organisation has completed all its old projects and now they are going ahead with the survey for initiating work on new projects. Likewise, the DACAAR also contributing a lot in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan. DACAAR constructed bath rooms and toilets in the Sarshahi Camp where around 120,000 war-displaced civilians of Kabul have been accommodated.

Haji Abdul Qadeer Khan, Governor of Nangarhar province has told *The Nation* that at least 140 NGOs has been registered with his administration. However, he regretted that only a few, mostly the foreign countries funded organisation are contributing in the reconstruction process.

8/23 THE NATION
LAHORE

24 killed in Kabul rocket attacks

KABUL (DPA)—At least 24 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in heavy weekend fighting that included the random launching of more than 100 rockets into Afghanistan Capital Kabul, radio reports said on Sunday. The government controlled Radio Kabul quoted ruling President Burhanuddin

Rabbani as saying that all parts of the city including residential areas, were hit on Saturday by more than 100 rockets that killed 20 people.

The radio blamed militia troops of the opposition leader Gulbadin Hikmatyar and General Rashid Dostum for the attacks.

Several people were killed by a rocket that hit in front of the Iranian Embassy in Central Kabul, the radio said. Four others were killed in fighting on Sunday in Western Kabul between units loyal to Rabbani and the Shiite militia of the Wahdat Party.

Rashid Dostum's delegation in Pakistan

From Behroz Khan

PESHAWAR: A 10 member delegation from northern Afghanistan has been here for the last one week to hold discussions with both Afghan and Pakistani leaders on the future set-up of their war-ravaged country.

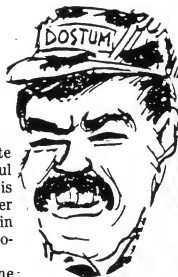
It is the first time that Afghan militia boss Gen Rashid Dostum has sent a high level delegation to visit Pakistan and convince the concerned quarters on the failure of the pro Rabbani Herat Conference. The delegation headed by Jamiat-i-Islami renegade and deputy to President Rabbani, Dr Muhammad Musa Tawana also comprises Maulavi Muhammad Usman Salikzada and Abdur Rehman Rehmani, governors of Balkh and Faryab provinces respectively.

The official spokesman of the delegation, Maulavi Abdul Baqi Turkistani told The News on telephone from Islamabad that the initial contacts with the three impartial mujahideen leaders, Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, Maulvi Muhammad

Nabi Muhammadi and the Shi'ite leader Asif Mohsini were fruitful and constructive. The delegation is concentrating its efforts to win over the three mujahideen leaders in order to form a broad-based opposition against Rabbani.

The spokesman revealed the major task of the delegation was to convince the mujahideen leaders to work out a formula for the formation of a council which would arrange a grand shura in any part of Afghanistan. He added the Herat Conference was a failure as it was a one sided gathering of pro Rabbani elements.

It is to be recalled that Tawana, who remained very close to Rabbani till recently, defected to Dostum few months back. Dostum is trying hard to muster maximum support against Rabbani, who seems to be enjoying an upper hand over his rivals on the military front as most of the important bases which Dostum's men held in and around Kabul fell to pro Rabbani forces in recent fighting.



THE NEWS

to everybody else. Rabbani has been arguing that he needed the agreement of all mujahideen leaders before deciding to release Dr Najib.

Dr Najib's relations, who are now in Peshawar and requested anonymity, informed that the ex-president lived a fairly comfortable life at the UN mission. He was provided with a radio, television and Pakistani English newspapers and served by UN employees. The accommodation was fairly spacious and protected. With the satellite dish, Dr Najib and the three other captives could watch television programmes from all over the world. Medical treatment for his kidney ailment was also continuing.

However, the satellite phone on which Dr Najib could talk to his wife and family members in India is now out of order. It was damaged during the latest battle for Kabul between Rabbani's and Heekmatyar's forces which began on January 1. In fact, the UN mission where Dr Najib is held captive received two rockets recently, causing damages to the building.

Dr Najib's relatives said they were allowed to visit him once a week. More frequent visits were also allowed sometime and on occasions they even spent the night at the UN compound. However, Dr Najib himself was stated to have declined to meet journalists and political figures. He even refused to meet a delegation of elders from his Ahmadzai tribe. By doing so, he wanted to stick to his decision to stay aloof from politics.

According to Dr Najib's relations, he hasn't grown a beard as is often reported. However, he prays regularly and is studying the Holy Quran along with its translation. He also reads a number of books, mostly history.

Apart from the UN officials, the 47-year old Dr Najib was stated to have received certain important members of the Rabbani government, including KHAD chief Gen. Fahim and former defence minister Ahmad Shah Masood's deputy Dr Abdur Rahman. Reports that Rabbani or Masood themselves may have met him couldn't be confirmed.

Those who have been frequently meeting Dr Najib maintained that he never tried to flee Afghanistan as is often claimed by the Rabbani government. They contended that Dr Najib left Arg (palace) in the presidential black Mercedes-Benz car displaying a UN number-plate to prevent harm to his person and reached the UN mission on April 24-25 when it became clear that Parchami elements in league with forces led by Masood and Gen. Rasheed Dostum had launched a coup d'etat against him and were about to attack the palace.

They pointed out that the palace was subsequently attacked and KHAD chief Gen. Farooq Yaqubi who was

loyal to Dr Najib was murdered. They argued that the story that Dr Najib was turned back from Kabul airport from where he wanted to fly out of the country was concocted to mislead the Afghan people.

Family of Dr Najib's aide freed from UN mission

By Rahimullah Yusufzai

PESHAWAR: Four members of a family being held at the UN mission in Kabul along with Dr Najibullah have been freed and sent to India but there is still no hope of an early release of the former Afghan president.

Family members of Dr Najibullah told 'The News' in Peshawar that the wife and three children of Ishaq Tokhi, a former secretary to the president, were released sometime back with the consent of President Rabbani's government and the UN. Tokhi and his family members were trapped with Dr Najibullah when he took refuge in the UN mission offices in Kabul in April 1992 after his decision to step down as president.

Tokhi's wife and children have gone to New Delhi, where Dr Najib's family has lived for almost three years now.

Beside Dr Najib and Tokhi, the two

other persons held captive by the Rabbani government in the UN mission are Dr Najib's younger brother Ahmadzai and his trusted bodyguard Jafar. The family of Ahmadzai, who is in his early 30s, is also living in New Delhi. Jafar is a Hazara by race and served as Dr Najib's bodyguard when he was head of KHAD, Afghanistan's intelligence outfit.

Dr Najib's continued detention has caused much embarrassment to the UN, which had promised him a safe passage in return for his agreement to step down as president as part of a peace plan brokered by Benon Sevan, the then UN special envoy on Afghanistan. It is understood that all mujahideen groups except Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami and Sayyaf's Ittehad-i-Islami favour his early release. Even Hezb-i-Islami chief Gulbaddin Heekmatyar is on record that he would not like Dr Najib to remain a prisoner now that general amnesty has been applied



FROM THE EDITOR:

THIS ISSUE WAS ALREADY LATE BECAUSE THE EDITOR WAS EXTENDING SUMMER. THEN, LATE ON A SATURDAY NIGHT, THE TYPEWRITER COLLAPSED: SO, A DIFFERENT COVER STYLE; THIS ITEM + CORRECTIONS HAND DONE. THE REPAIR MAN CAN'T COME UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

THE CHRONOLOGY USUALLY GIVES AN OVERVIEW OF ITEMS FROM MANY SOURCES; THE CLIPPINGS GO INTO DETAIL. INFORMATION ABOUT AFGHANISTAN IS ALMOST NON-EXISTENT IN THE WESTERN PRESS BUT WE RECEIVED A PILE OF PAKISTANI PRESS ARTICLES WHICH WE HAVE ARRANGED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER (LAZY READERS CAN SKIM THE HEADLINES). NOT AN EASY TASK AS AFGHAN EVENTS TEND TO REPEAT THEMSELVES. KEEP THE SOURCES IN MIND, AS WE PRINT EVERYONE'S PROPAGANDA.

AGAIN WE THANK ALL OF YOU WHO GAVE US INFORMATION; KEEP IT UP.

MAYBE - BY THE NEXT ISSUE WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE ON TIME - BOTH AFGHANISTAN & THE TYPEWRITER WILL BE IN BETTER SHAPE. THE DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1.

EVENTS

The 28th annual meeting of the MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSN. will take place in Phoenix, Arizona from November 19-24. Over 100 panels are scheduled. The reservation cut-off date is October 19, 1994. For reservation material contact: MESA, University of Arizona, 1232 North Cherry Avenue, Tucson, AZ. 85721. (602) 621-5850.

THE NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON ASIAN STUDIES will feature a panel on The Betrayal of Afghanistan: What Lies in The Future? A Round Table. Participants include Moh'd I. Khan, Amiryar Quadir, Thomas Green, Shahid Refai, & Omar Afzal. The CONFERENCE will be held October 14 & 15 at Utica College of Syracuse University, 1600 Burrstone Road, Utica, NY 13502-4892. The round table on Afghanistan is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 15. For registration information, contact Richard B. Rosen, NYCAS, at the above address.

The FIRST INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ARTISANS-AT-WORK FESTIVAL is scheduled for the week of October 7-15 at the Sports Complex in Islamabad, Pakistan. Demonstrations of carpet-making, embroidery, leather craft, wood-working, folk art, etc., are on the program as well as cultural exhibitions, dance performances & puppet shows. Sponsors include the Pakistan Ministry of Culture; the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art & Culture; the OIC; the World Crafts Council & UNESCO.



The flag of Afghanistan as it appears on a post card currently on sale at the UN. The top stripe is green, the bottom stripe, black. The emblem is in gold.

Mestiri's indepth talks in search of elusive Afghan peace

ISLAMABAD (PPF)—The United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, led by its envoy Mahmoud Mestiri, has undertaken a series of extensive and indepth consultations with representatives of various Afghan parties and individuals on a number of issues including a preparatory committee to organise a *Loya Jirga* and arrangements for a viable transitional authority to run the country in the interim period since the beginning of second phase of its work on July 22, says a press release.

These consultations were held with Pir Sayed Ahned Gailani of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), Maulvi Mo-

hammad of the Ilrakat-i-Inquilabi-Islami, and Ayatullah Mohammed Asif Moseini, Ilrakat-i-Islami, the representatives of the supreme coordination Council.

The mission also held useful meetings with a number of prominent Afghan personalities, ambassadors and other members of the diplomatic corps and with the foreign minister of the Pakistan.

The special mission visited Tashkent on 2-3 August 1994 and held useful and constructive meetings with the president of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, and the Uzbek foreign minister said Kasimov.

The consultations with the

Afghan parties and personalities also addressed the desirability of holding a preliminary meeting with representatives of the parties involved in the current hostilities in the country, and three leaders of the neutral parties.

Ambassador Mestiri's efforts in these directions were fruitful, despite some obstacles, and are continuing. It regards this preliminary meeting as a necessary first step leading to a broad-based participation in the peace process.

The special mission is fully committed to pursuing a peace process in Afghanistan, through dialogue and negotiation among the concerned parties.

**PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD.**

Russia, Tajik forces kill 21 activists

MOSCOW: Tajikistan government and Russian troops killed 21 Tajik activists in a wide-ranging operation against Islamic opposition forces near the Afghan border, Russian news agencies reported on Wednesday.

The operation, launched on Tuesday and still in progress on Wednesday, left 21 dead on the guerrilla side and three dead among government forces, the Interfax news agency said, citing a foreign ministry spokesman in Dushanbe.

The Moskovskiy region in southwestern Tajikistan, where the offensive was launched, came under heavy militant attack on

August 17 and 18. A total of seven Russian border guards were killed, and 14 others wounded in one of the bloodiest raids of the past year.

Three other Russian border guards were wounded in a rocket attack in the same sector on Monday.

Moscow has around 10,000 stationed in Tajikistan to aid the government which has been pitted against a pro-Islamic guerrilla insurgency since 1992.

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed concern on Tuesday over the "serious deterioration" in the situation in Tajikistan and raised the prospect of new UN initiatives.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan denied on Wednesday that its forces were involved in clashes on the Afghan-Tajik border in which seven Russian border guards were killed.

"Afghanistan, in accordance with the previous accord between the two countries hopes that the common border will be changed into a border of peace and understanding," said a statement issued by the Afghan Foreign Ministry and released in Islamabad.

The ministry said it "rejects categorically any involvement of the forces under the command of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in causing tension along the Afghan-Tajik border."

The Afghan statement said border tension was the result of problems within Tajikistan and "entirely a matter for the Tajiks themselves".

"Afghanistan has never interfered in the internal fighting going on," it said. "Afghanistan wants all the problems of Tajikistan to be solved through political means and not war." —AFP/Reuters

8/25
THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

**Ghali to visit
Pakistan
in September**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: The UN Secretary General Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali will arrive here on Sept 6 on a two-day visit to Pakistan.

During his stay he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmed Ali and meet President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Pakistan intends to discuss with the UN Secretary General a number of problems which afflict this region, including the Kashmir issue, situation in Afghanistan and Tajekistan.



BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI

Afghan factions trade rocket attacks

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—Amidst hectic efforts for peace the warring factions in Afghanistan continued attacks on each others positions with modern and heavy weapons.

The Jamiat Islami sources in Peshawar informed that forces loyal to Gulbadin Hikmatyar on Tuesday morning started rocket and missile attacks over populated areas of the Afghan capital. The combined forces after a brief interval at night, resumed attacks on Wednesday morning. They claimed that Hizbe Islami forces were still showering rockets and missiles on the populated areas.

The Jamiat sources were unable to provide details regarding casualties. They said that combined forces hit the populated areas of Khairkhana, Taymani, Wazir Akbar Khan, Sheher-i-Nao and others. They said that as a result of frequent rocket and missiles, routine business of life was further affected in the war destroyed Kabul city.

The mediators, on the other hand have accelerated their efforts to find out an early and amicable settlement to the Afghan conflict through peaceful and political ways. The leaders of three moderate forces included Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and Sheikh Asef Mohsseni were busy in talks with delegations of both President Rabbani and Rashid Dostam in Islamabad. Two separate delegations of Prof Rabbani and Rashid Dostam are in Islamabad.

It may be mentioned that leaders of three neutral parties, who are working for a formation of a commission for replacing Rabbani government for an interim period, were already assured of support by Gulbadin Hikmatyar led Coordination Council.

These neutral leaders recently conducted a detailed tour of Kabul on the invitation of President Rabbani and exchanged views with Rabbani, Ahmad Shah Masud and Abdul Rasool Sayaf.

THE NATION
LAMBOR

25 AUG 1994

37 killed in fierce Kabul fighting

THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, Aug 25: The renewed fighting around Kabul between the forces loyal to President Rabbani and the Coordination Council headed by former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had reportedly claimed 37 lives over the last two days with more than a hundred people wounded. According to Afghan sources here the rocketing of the capital on Wednesday night was very heavy and the losses could be much beyond the reported figures.

The reports said the area of conflict had spread to the east of Kabul. On Wednesday the Shooraa Nazar planes flew several missions to hit some of the Coordination Council positions, killing seven persons in one go. The main targets were Tappa Maran-

jan, Baghe Bala and Baghe Shah Shahid. The Hezbe Islami sources claimed that a well-known commander of Rabbani's Jamiat Islami in Darul Aman, Gul Agha had joined the HIA along with 20 comrades. The fresh Kabul government attacks, the reports added, were in retaliation of council's initiative two days ago when it carried out heavy rocket attack on the former's strongholds. The Coordination Council suffered heavy losses in Bazarak, Gule Lala and Aibak. On the other hand in Kunar province following the murder of Commander Mansoor of the HIA, a JIA Commander Qarar had left for Kunar and the two sides were preparing for what could be a decisive showdown.

The murder of Commander Mansoor was said to have created difficulties for Nangarhar

Governor, Haji Qadeer who was preparing to hold a seminar in Jalalabad in search for lasting peace and settlement in the country. It was planned that the seminar would be attended by representatives of all the Jehadi groups, leading ulema, scholars and other prominent Afghans from within and outside the country which the sponsors believed would help restore peace and pave way for the desired settlement.

Governor Qadeer was insisting on holding the seminar in Jalalabad which he viewed was the most suitable place for the purpose as the security and other arrangements there were ideal. Haji Qadeer was so confident of the success of his effort that he had supported the view of the UN Representative that there was no need to deploy United Nations

forces in Afghanistan.

AFP ADDS: Several people were killed and more than 50 injured in a rocket attack on the western suburbs of Kabul on Thursday.

The attack occurred in Kabul's Karte Parwan district near the Intercontinental Hotel where a special election commission was meeting to try to convene a grand national assembly, or Loya Jirga.

"We saw some dead bodies and about six other wounded were carried away to hospital," said a tailor, who closed his shop.

Staff from Kabul's three public hospitals reported treating 50 civilians casualties.

Intercontinental Hotel staff said four rockets exploded "quite close" to the hotel but there were no reported injuries and the election commission meeting was not interrupted.



LES HOMMES QUI VOULAIENT ETRE ROIS

UNDP approves \$24m package for Afghanistan

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has approved yet another package amounting to \$24 million for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, reports PPI.

"This amount comes in addition to approximately \$60 million of UNDP spent between the time of Geneva Accords in 1988 till the end of 1994," a UNDP press release added. The new allotment of funds represents a continued belief of the United Nations that a peaceful solution will be soon found to Afghan trauma and that continued reconstruction activities directly support the peace

process."

According to the report these newly approved projects are rural rehabilitation programme, comprehensive disable Afghan project and urban rehabilitation programmes.

About \$17,725,692 will be spent on rural rehabilitation programme for reconstruction of rural infrastructure and training of village women through an enhanced community participatory process based on traditional community organisation. This programme will be started on the termination of two ongoing rehabilitation programmes on August 31 next.

The UNDP has allocated \$1,072,000 for the project for improving the quality of life of children, women and men.

The UNDP estimated that 500,000 of Afghanistan's 2.3 million houses need to be rebuilt for which \$4,918,025 has been dispensed. The main objective of this programme is to facilitate and support the indigenous process of repair and recovery in the towns and cities of Afghanistan. Moreover the programme will specially focus on water, sanitation, building materials and interim house repair, the report concluded.

"This was our second official meeting but there will be no press statement until Sunday," said Sayyad Amin Ruyin, a provincial governor and commission member.

Ruyin said the first meeting convened Wednesday and an estimated 40 of the 60 designated commission members were present at Thursday's session.

He said the full commission will include eight expatriate Afghans, seven of whom are now waiting in New Delhi for a flight to Afghanistan.

It is not yet clear whether this Loya Jirga election commission, which was originally a 65-man forum nominated at a provincial shooraa or council in Herat one month ago, has the full backing of all mujahedeen factions.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezbi-Islami faction among others boycotted the Herat shooraa claiming it was a gathering dominated by Jamiat-Islami faction which is headed by Hekmatyar's rival, President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

UN agencies confirm return of Afghan refugees from Iran

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR - The United Nations agencies, functioning inside Afghanistan has confirmed return of the refugees from the neighbouring Islamic republic of Iran.

Recently, the international media in its reports as well as Tehran based Afghan diplomats alleged that Iranian authorities were forcibly evicting the Afghan refugees from that country.

The United Nations assistance for Afghanistan in its weekly update said that from August 5 to August 11, around, 1527 Afghan refugees have crossed the border from Iran to Afghanistan while the UNHCR confirmed entry of 1,041 into Ghorian district of Herat province.

The report said that all the refugees will receive assistance for rebuilding of their houses. Various agencies of the United Nations and other donors are busy in the relief activities, particularly for the returned refugees

from Islamic republic of Iran. The WFP distributed 287 tonnes of wheat, sugar, oil, rice and pulses for vulnerable group and institutions feeding in Herat. It also distributed 36 tonnes of wheat, sugar and pulses for food-for-work projects in the area.

The UNICEF EPI mobile teams in Karokh district of Herat province administered 4,078 doses of vaccines and 2,850 vitamin-A capsules. The UNICEF also delivered 200 syringes, 3000 vaccination cards, 340 litres of fuel and others to EPI centres in Herat and 500 kilograms of food and 220 litres of kerosene oil to general hospital.

In Herat province, the World Health Organisation delivered 35,800 tablets of anti-TB drugs, 380 registration forms, 1.8 tonnes of food stuffs, ten operating tables and 100 sponges to the general hospital and carried out a two-week training course for ten traditional birth attendants in Ghorian district.

THE NATION
LABORE

The United Nations reports said that it received an amount of 2,398,060 dollars for various relief activities in Afghanistan from various countries. The United States of America provided an amount of 2,000,000 dollars for UNOCHA, Canada provided an amount of 361,323 dollars for UNOCHA and France provided 36,737 dollars for UNOCHA.

The Canadian relief aimed for mine clearance while assistance of both the United States and France is not earmarked.

Apart from relief activities for the war affected people of Afghanistan the United Nations repatriated 456 Tajik families. The repatriated families include 218 from Sakhi camp of Mazar-i-Sharif and 238 families from Sherkan Bandar of Kunduz province.

The United Nations agencies provided transportation facilities to 600 Tajik refugees from Sakhi camp to Hairatan.

Kabul denies involvement in Tajik border clashes

Afghanistan has denied its involvement in the latest armed clashes along its joint border with Tajikistan. In a statement, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said that the cause of the border tension are internal problems of Tajikistan.

Radio Kabul reported that Tajikistan has delivered an official protest note to the Afghan government regarding the latest rockets attack on Tajikistan from the Afghan border. The protest note quotes Russian reports as saying that three Russian guards were injured in the latest incident.

PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD,

OPD offer to form neutral national force in Afghanistan

THE NEWS 8/27

PESHAWAR: The Organisation for Peace and Disarmament (OPD) has offered to form a neutral national force to oversee restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

A press release issued here said the OPD was qualified to undertake such a challenge as it was not aspiring for political power and could be acceptable to all sides due to its apolitical nature.

It claimed a number of Afghans had contacted the OPD for enlistment in this force and pledged to ensure security to all Afghan leaders, defend the country's legal authority and constitution and honour the country's international commitments. The OPD proposed that all armed factions should surrender their arms to the national force so that leaders of all the parties, prominent Afghans and intellectuals could sit together in a tension-free atmosphere and try to resolve the problems confronting to their country.

The OPD urged the Afghan leaders to support it in the establishment of the national force. It said the concerned authorities in Pakistan had also been contacted for backing for the OPD proposal. It called upon the UN to provide funds for establishing the force.

27 AUG 1994

Rabbani, others mustering support for Loya Jirga

THE NATION
LABORE

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR - Three moderate Afghan reports and President Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamiat Islami have doubled their efforts to take maximum Afghan forces and dignities into confidence to get the credit for convening the Loya Jirga meeting.

The Afghan president Prof. Rabbani has invited all his well wishers into Kabul for taking them into confidence for announcing a schedule of the proposed meeting of the Loya Jirga in the light of Herat conference. While Pir Syed Ahmed Gillani and his other associates are also busy in contacts with other Afghans for first announcing schedule for their programme.

However, Pir Syed Ahmed Gillani and Sheikh Asaf Mohseni faced a setback when chief of their three party's commission, making arrangements for a meeting of the Loya Jirga, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi didn't return from Kabul on August 17. Maulvi Nabi had led a delegation of three parties into Kabul which remained there for around 12 days. After holding detailed talks with Prof Rabbani, Prof

Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, Ahmed Shah Masud and others, the delegation excluding its chief Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi returned to Pakistan.

Some Afghan sources said that Prof Rabbani has summoned commander Ismael Khan to Kabul and they likely to unveil schedule of the Loya Jirga on Sunday (tomorrow).

On the other hand, the three moderate Afghan parties enjoying support of the Hizbe Islami led supreme coordination council and a number of other forces has stepped up efforts. On Friday, Pir Syed Ahmed Gillani held a detail meeting with representatives of the supreme coordination council, fighting against Prof Rabbani since January 1, 1994. Details of the meeting could not ascertain but it came to know they discussed in depth arrangements for the schedule meeting of the Loya Jirga. Now moderate Afghan leader, Pir Syed Ahmed Gillani who proved himself a neutral one in the ongoing tussle is struggling to announce schedule of the proposed Loya Jirga and commission before Prof Rabbani.

The powerful militia general and Uzbek warlord, Rashid Dostan who controls at least nine provinces of northern Afghanistan has assigned



the task to Musa Tawani. Musa Tawani is currently leading a delegation to Islamabad and is busy in his efforts to drum up support of his old students Prof. Rabbani and Prof. Rasool Sayyaf in favour of the Loya Jirga to be convened by neutral and impartial Afghans like Pir Syed Ahmed Gillani, Sheikh Asaf Mohseni and Maulvi Nabi Mohammadi. Musa Tawani remained deans faculty of Sharia in Kabul university and was teacher of the president Rabbani and Prof Rasool Sayyaf before their migration into Pakistan in 1973.

During his long stay in Islamabad, Musa Tawani, and his associates have held detail meetings not only with leaders of three jehadic forces but also with representatives of the supreme coordination council and Pakistan's foreign minister Sardar Asaf Ahmed Ali. Since a long Rashid Dostan favours an early meeting amongst the leading Afghan leadership and also support the proposal of Loya Jirga for finding out a negotiated settlement to the dispute. Likewise, headline Afghan leader Engineer Gulbadin Hekmatyar who also favours a negotiated settlement to the dispute but he was reluctant to support the proposal of Loya Jirga.

UN seeks protection for Mestiri

By Raja Zulfikar

ISLAMABAD: Following kidnapping threats to Mahmoud Mestiri, the United Nations is believed to have sought strict security for him during his stay in Islamabad.

Well-informed sources told The News that the kidnapping threat to the leader of the United Nations special mission to Afghanistan was received some time back by UN officials who contacted the Foreign Office in Islamabad right away.

"We have decided to provide maximum possible protection to the UN representative," said an official of the Interior Ministry.

It is learnt that the threat to Mahmoud Mestiri comes from one of the Afghan factions indulged in the bloody power game that erupted on January 1, 1994.

Mehmoud Mestiri, who is a former foreign minister of Tunisia, is presently away from Islamabad and scheduled to visit Jalalabad, capital city of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangrahar, for further negotiations in order to find a viable peace formula agreed upon by all feuding parties.

However, there are conflicting reports about Mestiri's stay in Islamabad on Friday.

"Whenever he is here, we will ensure that nothing goes wrong," said a source.

Initial steps taken to the effect include strict vigil on Afghans entering Pakistan from Torkhum. Even in Peshawar, agencies have been put on high alert.

The United Nations special envoy was suspected of late of supporting the Afghan group Hezb-i-Islami led by Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, although a strong denial in this regard was issued.

THE NEWS

Afghans influx at Jalalabad camps

MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, Aug 26: As a result of the fresh conflict between the rival Afghan groups in and around Kabul, the pressure on the refugee camps established in Jalalabad had reportedly increased because of the recent inflow.

The Afghan sources said that the three camps set up with the UN assistance in the capital of Ningapahr province, about 60 kilometres from Torkham, were all heavily overcrowded and none of these were in a position to accommodate any further load. Consequently, a large number of the Afghans have been desperately trying to enter Pakistan via unusual routes. The camps in Jalalabad were already confronted with the acute shortage of drinking water while many of the

dislocated people were compelled to live without a shelter.

Meanwhile the special envoy of the United Nations on Afghanistan Mahmood Mestiri had initiated a fresh round of talks with the Afghan leaders. So far he has met Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi of the Harkate Inqilabi Islami, Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani of the Islamic Front, Sheikh Asif Mohsini of the Harkate Islami (Shiites) and Hashmatullah Mujaddadi of Nijate Milli besides several others including two from the Northern Areas.

According to the Hezbe Islami sources these meetings were purely informal but still an attempt had been made during these individual meetings to find a solution, acceptable to all. These sources, however, believed that consensus among the major groups

was not an easy task and as such nothing could be said with certainty about the net result of these talks. The concentration was now said to be on the possible formation of one or more committees which could help constitute a representative Jirga comprising all the parties.

The delegation from the North, which consisted of fourteen stalwarts of General Rashid Dostum, included some of his top aides and Ulema as well. Led by Dr Syed Musa Tawara, it will also hold talks with the Afghan leaders and relevant officials of the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad. Musa Tawara, it may be added, was one of the founders of Rabbani's Jamiat Islami but later parted ways following differences with the Professor.

THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD



Aryana chief contradicts forcible landing at Peshawar

THE NATION

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR — Engineer Roohullah, chairman of Afghan Aryana Airlines has outrightly contradicted a news item which appeared in a section Press stating that Civil Aviation Authorities forcibly made Aryana flight at which was on its way from Kabul to New Delhi land at Peshawar airport and termed it a baseless and concocted.

Addressing a press conference here on Monday, Engineer Roohullah Aman, flanked by a number of high level officers of Afghan Aryana Airlines, said that on its schedule flight, Aryana Plane reached Peshawar on the evening of Friday but developed a fault which the engineers of Aryana are repairing while he along with his other colleagues is negotiating with the Civil Aviation Authorities. He said that the plane still landing at Peshawar airport and likely to leave for Kabul Monday night or on Tues-

day. Similarly, Engineer Roohullah Aman also contradicted reports that an Aryana Airlines carrying Indian specialists was also forcibly made to land by the Civil Aviation Authorities. He said that Aryana Airlines being commercial airline and a member of the International Air Travel Association will never indulge itself in illegal activities. He said that people of Afghanistan consider Pakistan as their second homeland and they will never indulge in activities which could be harmful to the interests of Pakistan.

Answering to a question, the Aryana Airlines Chairman said that as a result of uncertain situation of Kabul they resumed scheduled flights between Peshawar and Kabul after three months. He said that now Aryana will continue its regular weekly flights between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He was also shown a copy of the now scheduled Aryana flights with Pakistan for winter which

he said was aimed at for a period of three months. He said that for signing the schedule, he along with his colleagues was in in Peshawar since Friday.

Giving details of the Aryana flights with other countries, Engineer Roohullah said that Aryana having eight flights with London, Far East, Jeddah and Peshawar weekly. While Aryana has two flights to each Moscow and Tashkent every week, four with Dubai and three with New Delhi. He said that all those flights busy in providing of services to people of Afghanistan and other countries. He said that now they were struggling to further promote the services of Aryana Airlines. He reaffirmed his stand that people of Afghanistan could be enabled by the Aryana Airlines for maintaining their friendly and brotherly relations with Afghanistan. He asked the mediemen to support the Aryana Airlines in this regards.

جہ خدا کی
خدا بہ روشنی ہو
اپنی جگہ پر نہ
بیکار ہو نہ
Trust in God,
but tie
your camel.

UN for joint Afghan moot to end conflict

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 29: UN Special Mission led by former Tunisian foreign minister Mehmed Mestiri is contemplating to call a joint meeting of all Afghan leaders to ponder over the proposals for resolving the on-going conflict in their war-ravaged country.

"We have talked to all Afghan groups individually and now we want to have a joint sitting with them," to deliberate on the proposals, UN sources told APP here on Sunday.

They said the proposed meeting would not be "Afghan leaders moot" but all Afghan factions would be asked to send their representatives to it.

They said as the negotiations were under way with Afghan leaders, "therefore no conclusion could be drawn at this stage."

Mestiri has been here on the second round of his shuttle diplomacy for the last one month to find a solution to the simmering dispute that has so far claimed thousands of innocent lives.

He met a cross-section of Afghan society besides Afghan leaders including President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his arch rival Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

His mission submitted a progress report to the UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali making recommendations for the solution of the crisis.

Ghali is scheduled to visit Pakistan in the first week of September and would also meet Afghan leaders. "He is coming on an official visit to Pakistan but he will also discuss Afghan matter," the sources said adding, "this will

boost our efforts."

Responding to a question about the press reports that an Afghan group had threatened to kidnap Mestiri, the sources said, "Press has a bit exaggerated the issue."

A Foreign Radio had reported that some of the Afghan groups had threatened to abduct Mestiri for their opposition to his mission.

They said they did get information that some Afghan elements had conceived "designs" against the Mestiri mission but that were not about kidnapping him.

The sources said they were unaware of who did plan these designs but certainly these were not conspired by any Afghan group.

The UN sources said they had not asked Pakistan to beef up security of UN mission head, "He has normal security," they added.

In telephonic interview with Voice of American (VOA) when the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Mr. Sitorious was asked about convening of Loya Jirga in Afghanistan, he said that this is not the job of Mr. Mahmud Mestiri rather it is the proposal of the Afghans. He said that the UN Special Mission headed by Mr. Mestiri has been making efforts to bring the Afghan leaders on negotiating table to discuss the formation of a commission for convening a Loya Jirga and establishing an interim set-up.

Commenting on the transportation of medicines on board 17 ICRC lorries to Kabul yesterday, Mr. Sitorious Mosorious said he hopes that these medicines will reach Kabul. He said that at present, he has no information about these lorries but if these lorries do not reach Kabul, it will be a great tragic incident because the capital is in dire need of medicines and they are making all out efforts to assist the people of Kabul.

Wranglings on post of Afghan Trade Commissioner

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR - To get attractive official posts in Peshawar, the activists of various Afghan forces were in the run against each others. On Monday, a large number of Afghan Leaders assembled in the office of Afghan trade commissioner where the post of trade commissioner is still undecided.

The sitting trade commissioner Haji Masto Khan is in Kabul and trying to return to the post.

Sources told *The Nation* that Prof. Rabbani's administration recently has decided to replace Haji Masto Khan by Haji Ahmed Ahmadzai. The latter has received his appointment letter as a new Afghan trade commissioner in Peshawar. However, before the arrival of Haji Ahmed Ahmadzai in Peshawar for assuming charge as new trade commissioner, the sitting Commissioner Haji Masto Khan left Peshawar for Kabul in a bid to force Rabbani administration for withdrawal of said decision.

Sources said that Rabbani government had taken the decision on the recommendation of Harakat Islami Chief Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi. Some three months

ago, Rabbani administration had tried to replace Haji Masto Khan by nominee of Jamiat Islami or Ittehad Islami, but the said efforts of Rabbani administration proved useless.

It may be mentioned here that trade commissioner's post in Peshawar equal to first secretary and the trade commissioner enjoy diplomatic facilities. Apart from attractive diplomatic facilities, the Afghan trade commissioner can earn millions of rupees every month as he is the lone responsible Afghan officer looking after its transit trade with various foreign countries. Haji Masto Khan become the Afghan trade commis-

sioner in Peshawar when Wakeel Ahmadzai become the trade minister in the cabinet of former Afghan President Prof. Sibghatullah Mujaddai.

It was learnt that Haji Ahmed on Monday morning reached the office of Afghan trade commissioner for assuming his new assignments, but he was informed that Haji Masto Khan is in Kabul and only on his return he could take charge of his new duties. Sources said that Haji Masto Khan has directed his subordinates not to extend cooperation to his one time friend and present rival Haji Ahmad. A number of leading Afghan figures included ministers

Engineer Ahmed Shah Ahmadzai of Ittehad Islami and Arsalah Rehmani of Harakat-Islami also visited the office of Afghan trade commissioner for resolving the dispute. But both of them failed to resolve the issue.



Frontier Post 8/8

THE NATION
LAWORE

8/30

Mestiri admits failure in bringing together Afghans

ISLAMABAD (APP) — UN special mission led by ambassador Mehmod Mestiri Friday ended its second phase with a note of regret as it had failed to gather antagonistic Afghan factions across a single table for negotiations.

"The special mission very much regrets the failure to hold the joint preliminary meeting" of the warring and neutral Afghan groups, said a press release of United Nations issued here.

The preliminary meeting could not be held because of the flat refusal of representative of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani to sit together with delegates of National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan led by Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum who commands most of the northern country.

"Despite numerous, compromise proposals and formulas, it was in the end not possible to hold this joint preliminary meeting because of total refusal by the side opposed to the Supreme Coordination Council to include National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan (NIMA) in such a meeting", the press release said.

Prime Minister Gulbuddin

Hekmatyar, the arch-foe of Rabbani heads the Coordination Council that groups Shia Hiz-e-Wahdat, Dostum's NIMA and National Liberation Movement of former President Sibghatullah Mujadeddi.

The special mission led by former Tunisian foreign minister expressed its deep regrets over its failure to holding a joint Afghan meeting, "thus indicating that the commitment to peace is not yet sufficiently strong and widespread to overcome inevitable obstacles".

Mestiri who has been here on the second round of his shuttle diplomacy for the last six weeks have had intensive and indepth but separate meetings with warring groups besides Ayatollah Asef Mohseni, Moulvi Nabi Muhammadi and Pir Syed Ahmed Gilani known as "neutral leaders".

The initial consultations, the press release said, identified agreement in principle on three significant elements necessary to initiate a comprehensive peace process in Afghanistan. The three elements included formation of a fully representative preparatory committee, transitional arrangements and the convening of Loya Jirga.

The initial suggestion also suggested the need and possibility of holding a joint preliminary meeting of the warring parties to further the peace process.

Despite its failure to convene joint meeting, the press release said the mission would not be discouraged nor detracted from pursuing the course of peace in Afghanistan. The special mission, it said, was determined to carry out the General Assembly mandate of facilitating the process of rapprochement and reconstruction in war-devastated Afghanistan through dialogue and negotiations.

"The Afghan people have suffered enough from the hostilities

in their country, and their overwhelming desire for peace should not be frustrated any longer", it added.

Announcing end of the second phase, the mission said the next round would start within a few weeks, "preferably inside Afghanistan and with the participation of Afghan independent group and personalities".

THE FRONTIER POST PESHAWAR



Afghan team arrives to remove misunderstandings

MURTAZA MALIK

PESHAWAR, Sept 2: A high powered Afghan delegation headed by President Rabbani's Minister for Civil Aviation Dr Abdul Rahman arrived here Thursday on its way to Islamabad on the specific mission of removing the misunderstandings between the two countries.

The doctor, who was the second-in-command to Engineer Ahmad Shah Masood in the Shooraa Nazar is considered to be one of the most important persons in the ruling hierarchy in Kabul which explained the concern of the Afghan government to dispel the impressions about the growing understanding and cooperation with India and

The other nine members of the delegation also equally important, represent different ministries.

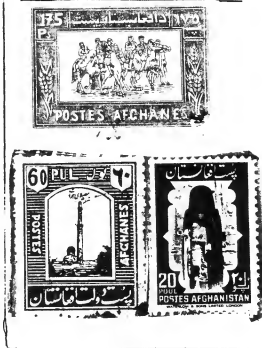
The delegation believes that any misunderstandings between Pakistan and Afghanistan, following the attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul, could be the result of the propaganda campaign engineered by Gulbadin Hekmatyar and his allies. Similarly, the recent reports that plane loads of military hardware from India and Russia were landing in the Afghan capital, the delegation views, is also part of the Hekmatyar plans to create an unnecessary alarm in Pakistan.

Dr Rahman and his team will try to emphasise that a country,

taken care of for fifteen long years, by Pakistan, even risking its own security, could not be that grateful as to shake hand with its hosts adversaries. The delegation, according to Afghan sources, is confident that Islamabad fully appreciates Kabul's position and difficulties and as such sorting out the misunderstandings should be no problem.

Besides the Foreign Minister and the Minister for Interior, the Afghan delegation will meet the Chief of the Army Staff. It will also try to seek an interview with Prime Minister Bhutto the sources added.

The delegation after an overnight stay in Peshawar, left for Islamabad Friday morning.



THE MUSLIM ISLAMABAD 9/3

Another Afghan delegation to meet UN special envoy

4 SEP 1994

THE NEWS

From Behroz Khan

PESHAWAR: Another Afghan delegation, sent by President Burhanuddin Rabbani, is expected to meet the United Nations special envoy in Islamabad to discuss the future set-up of Afghanistan.

The 15-member delegation headed by Noorullah Emad, minister for agriculture and secretary-general of Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami, has left for Peshawar by road from Jalalabad, capital of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar. They were brought in a military plane to Jalalabad from Kabul to meet Governor Nangarhar Abdul Qadeer before leaving for Pakistan.

Afghan sources said the delegation will discuss with Mahmoud Mestiri, who has been camped there for the last three weeks, the formation of a Loya Jirga.

President Rabbani and his ally Prof Sayyaf have already rejected Mestiri's proposal to initiate dialogue with former militia boss Gen Rashid Dostum, who is now siding with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in his struggle against the Ahmad Shah Masood-backed Afghan government.

Emad, sources said, will brief UN officials on the proposed formation of a Loya Jirga, which was approved in the Herat Conference last month.

The majority of Afghan groups have rejected the recommendations of the Herat Conference as they believe convening a Loya Jirga under the supervision of the present Afghan government would provide yet another excuse for Rabbani to stay in power.

Afghans are of the view that all efforts to invite warring Afghan factions to the negotiation table will bear no fruit until different mujahideen groups agree on the future role of Rashid Dostum. Both Rabbani and Sayyaf, who fought in the past against Hekmatyar to defend their alliance with the militia boss are now opposing the participation of Dostum's 'Junbish-i-Mili Afghanistan in any intra-Afghan dialogue to be held for the future set-up of Afghanistan.

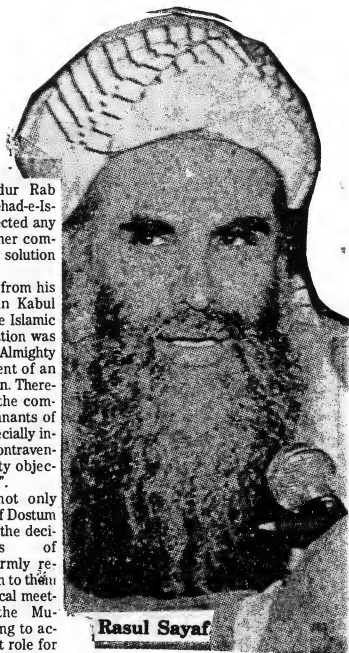
Hekmatyar had to change his stance of being deadly opposed to Dostum when differences between Dostum and Rabbani surfaced. The Hezb-i-Islami chief also withdrew his demand that the Dostum-led militia vacate Kabul as, according to Hekmatyar, he would not enter the Afghan capital unless the city is cleared of the communists and anti-Islamic forces. The same is now being repeated by Rabbani and his allies against Dostum, who has switched over to Hekmatyar and is fighting along side his forces.

Meanwhile, Prof Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, leader of Ittehad-i-Islami Afghanistan, has rejected any political role for the former communists and militias in the solution of the Afghan problem.

In a wireless message from his Paghman headquarters in Kabul Saturday, Sayyaf said: "The Islamic struggle of the Afghan nation was started just for the sake of Almighty Allah and the establishment of an Islamic order in Afghanistan. Therefore, any recognition of the communist elements and remnants of the ex-Marxist regime, specially infidel militias, is in direct contravention of the noble and lofty objectives of our glorious jihad".

He said they were not only against the participation of Dostum and other communists in the decision-making process of Afghanistan, but also firmly rejected any type of invitation to them to participate in the political meetings and gatherings of the Mujahideen. "We are not going to accept any direct or indirect role for them in the future of the country. We consider this as treachery with Islam, our national values and the honour of the Afghan", he added.

He appealed to all the mujahideen parties to come closer to each other instead of relying on the help of the infidel communities.



Rasul Sayaf

No room for Dostum in future set-up: Sayyaf

9/4

PESHAWAR, Sept. 3: Professor Abdur Rasul Sayyaf, leader of Ittehad-i-Islami Afghanistan, has rejected any political role for the former communists and militias in the solution of the Afghan problem.

In a wireless message from his Paghman headquarters in Kabul today, Mr. Sayyaf said the Islamic struggle of the Afghan nation was started just for the sake of almighty God and the establishment of an Islamic order in Afghanistan. Therefore, any kind of recognition of the communist elements and remnants of the ex-Marxist regime, specially the infidel militias, are in direct contravention of the noble and lofty objectives of our glorious Jihad.

"We are not only against the participation of Dostam and other communists in the decision-making process of Afghanistan, we also firmly reject any type of invitation to them to participate in the political meetings and gatherings of the Mujahideen. We are not going to accept any direct or indirect role for them in the future of the country. We consider this as treachery with Islam, our national values and the honour of the Afghans," he said.

AFP adds: A rocket attack on Kabul by Hezb-i-Islami faction gunners killed two people and wounded another 65 during front-line fighting, hospital sources said Saturday.

The infantry battle, accompanied by a rocket attack, took place on the eastern front lines on Friday, the traditional Muslim day of worship, which is generally quiet in Kabul.

The war-battered city was relatively quiet Saturday, with some action along the front-lines but no apparent rocket attacks on the capital.

"On Friday, Hezb-i-Islami made an offensive in the direction of Bala Hissar but were pushed back," a defence ministry spokesman said.

Bala Hissar is an ancient fortress guarding the eastern approaches to Kabul, which along with adjacent Maranjan hill was captured from Hezb-i-Islami by forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani last July.

**THE PAKISTAN TIMES
ISLAMABAD**



9/17- NYT - Four Russian border guards were killed when a land mine exploded during a Russian operation against a group of Islamic militants who infiltrated from Afghanistan yesterday.

9/18 - NYT -

Cease-Fire in Tajikistan

MOSCCW, Sept. 17 (AP) — The Russian-backed Government of Tajikistan has signed a cease-fire with Islamic rebels, ITAR-Tass and Interfax news agencies reported today. The peace talks aimed at ending three years of civil strife, in which an estimated 20,000 people were killed, were held in Iran under United Nations mediation.

As of 9/23 - According to the Afghan Mission to the UN - Mohseni's Wahdat Party (supported by Sayyaf) and Akbari's New Wahdat Party have come together against Mazari's Wahdat (supported by Hekmatyar) and have agreed to cooperate with other parties in the peace process. While the Iranian clergy has been supporting Mazari, the Iranian Gov't is urging him to cooperate. The Mohseni-Akbari faction is trying to wrest control of the Kabul University area from Mazari & apparently is making some progress.
- UN mediator Mestiri leaves Tunisia today to return to Islamabad to try once more. This time he will try to arrange a meeting of non-party Afghans.



Frontier Post 8/23

India's Boundless Passion Fruit

After reading Molly Moore's July 18 news story "India's Passion Fruit," I feel tempted to share the following fictitious conversation between an Afghani and an Indian about the mango.

Afghani: Being hot and humid, your country is not rich in fruits.

Indian: Generalizations seldom help. Kindly be specific. Or else, we can compare and count.

Afghani: Well, we have apples in Afghanistan.

Indian: We have mangoes.

A: We have grapes.

I: We have mangoes.

A: We have apricots.

I: We have mangoes.

A: We have pomegranates.

I: We have mangoes.

A: We have pears.

I: We have mangoes.

A: We have honeydew.

I: We have mangoes.

Getting exasperated on hearing the word "mangoes" repeated so



BY MOLLY MOORE—THE WASHINGTON POST

often, the Afghani says, "Don't you have anything else apart from mangoes?" To this the Indian replies coolly, "We have lots of other fruits. But still the variety of mangoes is not exhausted."

In North India every mango tree in a grove or on the roadside is different. Fruit from each tree has its own peculiar size,

shape, color, taste and flavor. Many people name the tree after its peculiarity. Until recent times many city folks went to the villages in the rainy, monsoon, mango season to savor the fruit from a tree of their choice and taste. There are also many other different ways of using the unripe and ripe fruit as a vegetable, as dessert with or without ice cream, as a milk shake, as seasoning or as dried chunks all year round. The mango's incarnations go on and on!

B. R. JASSAL
Arlington

WP 7/31

*QODS - Persian Daily printed in Mashad, Iran
9 July 1994*

FOREIGN WORKERS' TEMPORARY WORK PERMITS REVOKED IN KHORASAN

According to the director of the Department of Employment and Social Affairs, temporary work permits issued to foreign residents, especially Afghani refugees, working in industry and agriculture in the province of Khorasan, are no longer valid.

He requested all those employing foreign workers to begin steps to replace these with Iranian workers.

He confirmed that any employers employing non-Iranian workers from now on will be breaking the law, and could be sentenced to 90-180 days imprisonment.

Mr Zafarzadeh added that around 5000 employers from the various sectors who had employed foreign workers during the past year and the first three months of this year in Khorasan had already been reported for prosecution.

Wahdat News Bulletin, Vol.2 No.11, July 1994

New Fighting Dashes Hopes of Peace in Afghanistan

By John Ward Anderson
Washington Post Foreign Service

NEW DELHI—Fierce rocket and artillery duels have killed more than 800 people in Kabul this summer, demolishing hopes that two international peace missions launched this past spring can lead to a cease-fire and an end to Afghanistan's civil war.

Shifting alliances among feuding warlords have led to intensified fighting that this year has claimed almost 5,000 lives, wounded more than 25,000 and forced 600,000 people to flee Kabul, the capital.

And despite clear evidence that Afghanistan's people are terribly weary of war, fighting in recent months has spread to areas of the country that have not seen battle in years, including Mazar-e Sharif in the north and Herat in the west.

The faltering peace efforts demonstrate the difficulty of resolving the crisis in Afghanistan, which began when the Soviet Union invaded the country in 1979. After joining forces for 13 years to expel the Soviets and topple its communist successor regime in 1992, Afghanistan's warlords have been unable to agree on which of them should run the country. The dispute has degenerated into a brutal power struggle based on centuries-old religious, ethnic and tribal rivalries.

The renewed fighting has dashed slim hopes that peace missions by the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference, both of which sent special envoys to Afghanistan this past spring, will succeed.

"There was a specter of hope that things might get slightly better, but all that has crashed now," said one official familiar with the efforts. Another official, who asked not to be identified, said the U.N. mission is so divided over what to do that a return trip to Afghanistan scheduled for late July was indefinitely postponed.

When the U.N. peace delegation visited Mazar-e Sharif in April, tens of thousands of people surrounded the mission's motorcade and showered it with wild tulips and cries for peace. In public meetings, many complained that the tough Afghan *mujaheddin*, or Islamic rebel, leaders who drove out the Soviets are ill-equipped for building a government and managing a lasting peace. "We

are in urgent need of a cease-fire," a doctor told the U.N. delegation. "By any means, arms should be gathered and taken away from the militias."

It is widely believed that Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan and Uzbekistan are helping their favorite militia leaders, and Afghans said they hoped the United Nations could intervene to stop the aid, which they blamed for prolonging the fighting.

While some cities such as Kabul have seen trade flourishing, buildings being constructed and normal life resuming in recent years, Afghanistan remains a country that is bankrupt and has no central government to accept foreign aid and disburse it.

About 82 percent of its 15 million people live in rural areas surrounded by fields laced with more than 10 million land mines, 90 percent of its people are illiterate, and 3 of every 10 children die by age 5, according to U.N. reports. A 1993 U.N. report that measures the well-being of societies across the globe ranked Afghanistan number 171 of 173 countries surveyed.

A generation of children is schooled only in the art of making war. Teachers, doctors, engineers and most other professionals have fled the country, illicit drug production is rampant, and young men are reluctant to quit the militias for more productive employment because the armies pay about \$15 a

month—twice the average Afghan salary.

The fighting has been particularly intense in Kabul—once a cosmopolitan city of 2 million people surrounded by flowering fruit trees and olive groves, now a community of about 400,000 refugees living amid the rubble.

In a major offensive in late June, troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani evicted the forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from the capital, sparking fighting during which thousands of rockets smashed into hospitals, homeless shelters, markets and neighborhoods that had become safe havens.

Pierre Krahenbuhl, a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross reached in Kabul by satellite telephone, said more than 4,900 people have been injured and about 800 killed since the offensive was launched June 25. Radio Kabul and wire services reported that 200 rockets were exchanged last Friday and Saturday alone, killing 26 people and injuring about 200. On Sunday, heavy rocket attacks on Kabul killed another 18 people and wounded 98, government-controlled Radio Kabul reported.

"There are rockets that fall from nowhere, with no warning, without any pattern, so everybody is on tenterhooks and there is panic all the time," said Saita Varde-Naqvi, a Red Cross spokeswoman in New Delhi who recently visited Kabul.



Gen. Rashid Dostum, left, an Uzbek warlord who controls most of north-central Afghanistan, walks toward one of his jets at a military airport near Shibergan. His switch in allegiance in January led to the current round of fighting.

The U.N. delegation, headed by former Tunisian foreign minister Mehmod Mestiri, visited sites across Afghanistan in April, holding public meetings and talking with warlords, intellectuals, religious leaders and other Afghans. The most striking impression was the relative peace and normalcy of much of the country.

A few small industries have been developed, farmers now work fields that had been cleared of land mines, and television satellite dishes adorn some rooftops.

When the U.N. mission visited Mazar-e Sharif, some schools were open, bazaars were doing a booming business, curbside vendors sold soft ice cream cones, and a video store—its owner engulfed in clouds of hashish smoke and shouting "Arnold! Arnold!"—rented copies of "The Terminator."

A few miles outside the city, a bustling, prosperous community had developed around a fertilizer and power plant. Officials said the plant, which employed about 2,700 people, is the largest industrial complex in the country. It supported a suburban-style community of 1,250 families who lived in neat three-story apartment buildings and had access to schools, a cinema, a hospital, a swimming pool and a social club.

Even larger crowds greeted the delegation when it drove 70 miles west to the town of Shibergan and met with Gen. Rashid Dostum, an Uzbek warlord who controls most of north-central Afghanistan. It was Dostum's switch in allegiance from Rabbani to Hekmatyar in January that plunged the country into its current round of fighting.

Outside the towns, there are few signs of 20th-century life, except for an occasional tank carcass left over from the 10-year Soviet occupation. On the wide plains that stretch from the snowcapped Teshma Shefa mountains north to the rocky deserts of Tajikistan farmers worked their fields of wheat, mustard, melons and grapes with bullocks and camels and lived in adobe huts surrounded by defensive outer walls.

In his meetings with Afghans, Mestiri, head of the special U.N. delegation, said the United Nations has avoided any peacemaking role in Afghanistan primarily because the organization has its hands full elsewhere in the world and considered the Afghan conflict an internal matter.

He said the United Nations has no peace plan of its own, and that he wanted to hear from all segments of

Afghan society before making recommendations.

In meetings and written proposals, Afghans struck some common themes: There should be an immediate and permanent cease-fire; all foreign countries should stop aiding the militias; weapons should be collected; a neutral national army should be formed with members from all groups; a *loya jirga*—or a grand meeting of the country's top religious, tribal, political and military leaders—should be convened to appoint an interim government; the interim government should oversee the drafting of a new constitution and the return of more than 2.5 million refugees still living in camps in Iran and Pakistan; and countrywide general elections for new leaders should eventually be held.

Many Afghans agreed that stationing foreign troops as U.N. peacekeepers here would be a mistake but said the organization should help collect weapons, monitor any cease-fire and supervise elections. Some said that former King Zahir Shah, who is living in exile in Rome, should return to play a conciliatory role, though not as a monarch.

According to a U.N. paper, "The problem with these peace ideas . . . is most of them are short on practical proposals for carrying them out."

At the same time, many Afghans were skeptical of the U.N. mission, asking why Western countries and the United Nations had "abandoned" them and wondering whether the body would lose interest quickly.

The United States spent billions arming the mujaheddin in their fight against the Soviets in the 1980s but stopped aiding them after the Sovi-

ets withdrew in 1989 and the communist successor regime fell.

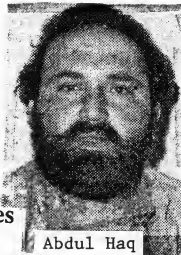
And U.N. workers have often been the first to leave Kabul when the situation got too tense, and the organization's earlier peace initiatives have been short-lived—a reputation that the United Nations may be confirming once again today.

An official of the U.N. mission offered this assessment: "For this to succeed, there must be a political and financial commitment.

"If you just try the peace part, it won't work. But I don't know that we have the permanent five on the Security Council interested in doing anything about Afghanistan."

THE WASHINGTON POST

AUGUST 30, 1994



Abdul Haq

Abdul Haq activates Nangarhar's TV

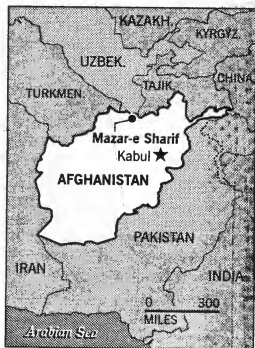
Abdul Haq, a famous commander of Khalis party and brother of Haji Qadeer, the governor of Nangarhar Province, is busy building a local TV station in Jalalabad. The station is funded by some western organizations.

After leaving his post after a brief period as the first head of national police of the Mujahideen government in 1991, Abdul Haq has been traveling to Europe and America and giving interviews critical of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Abdul Haq succeeded in convincing many Western journalists and diplomats, before the fall of the communist regime, that he would be the ultimate conqueror of Kabul. But he played no significant role in collapse of the communist regime.

Although Abdul Haq has avoided supporting Hikmatyar openly, he surrendered most of the areas he controlled around Kabul to Hezb Islami; his former followers there are now on the payroll of Gulbuddin.

According to one informed source, he has promised the donors of his project that his TV station would broadcast CNN programs through his station without censoring them.



BY BRAD WYKE—THE WASHINGTON POST

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

THE JOURNALS OF EDWARD STIRLING IN PERSIA & AFGHANISTAN 1828-1829, edited & with an introduction by Jonathan L. Lee, Istituto Universitario Orientale Dipartimento di Studi Asiatiche & Istituto Italiano per il Medio & Estremo Oriente, Naples, 1991. 343 pp. + biblio, maps & photo plates.

ISLAMIC DESK REFERENCE, compiled from The Encyclopaedia of Islam, by E. van Donzel, E.J. Brill, 1994. 472 pp, 8 color plates, 28 maps. \$71.50. The US address is 24 Hudson St., Kinderhook, NY 12106.

AFGHANISTAN. LES HOMMES QUI VOULAIENT ETRE ROIS by Armand Ruffier & Olivier Tirard-Collet, Inst. d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble, 1993.

ACCOUCHEUSES TRADITIONNELLES, ACCOUCHEMENTS & SOINS AUX NOUVEAUX-NES EN AFGHANISTAN by Sylvie Heslot, Univ. of Paris VII, 1993. 2 vol. 162 pp + 94 pp. of annexes, photos.

LES NOUVELLES D'AFGHANISTAN, #64, 2nd trimester, 1994, contains articles on the destruction of Kabul by Brigitte Vasset, provincial control by Etienne Gille, and the destruction of the site at Hadda as well as other reports. The quarterly is available from Les Nouvelles d'Afghanistan, BP 253, 75524 Paris Cedex 11, France. Overseas subscriptions are Ff 130/yr (4 issues).

LIKE HIDDEN FIRE. THE PLOT TO BRING DOWN THE BRITISH EMPIRE by Peter Hopkirk, Kodansha America, 114 5th Ave., New York, NY 10011, 1994. 432 pp. incl. biblio & index. \$25.

١٤١٥ الهـ١١ - هـ١١ October - November 1994			
جمعة Friday	الجمعة Thursday	الجمعة Wednesday	الجمعة Tuesday
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7	6	5	4
3	2	1	

ORGANIZATIONS

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292 Pentonville Road
London N1 9NR
Tel 071-278 2832
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news from Afghanaid

The war and its legacy of land mines have left hundreds of thousands of Afghans disabled. In the North-East of Afghanistan, a recent survey estimated that about 33,000 of the Region's two million population are disabled. Taloan, capital of Takhar province, lies in the centre of the Region, and is the site of the first Regional Physical Rehabilitation Centre to be set up in Afghanistan.

The Centre is a place where disabled people can regain their strength, have their disability assessed and treated, and get help in integrating back into the community.

So far, the Centre has been run from two small, shared rooms in another organisation's offices; it is now seriously hampered by lack of space. Many patients come from far away, but there is nowhere in the Centre for them to stay. Even more urgently, the patients need space to exercise and to receive gait training.

A suitable site for the Centre's orthopaedic workshop and physiotherapy services has been found in the grounds of Taloan Hospital. All that remains is to build the building.

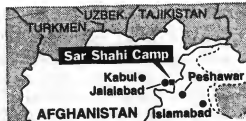
Lacking the funds and skills, the staff have asked Afghanaid to help. We have engineers in Taloan who could easily supervise the construction. We would very much like to see this project happen, but need £12,000 for the materials and labour. *If you would like to help build the centre, please make a donation.*

The Free Afghanistan Alliance, 678 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139-0008, is collecting clothing for refugees who have been displaced from their homes in Kabul & are now in camps in Jalalabad & Peshawar. Children's & women's clothing is preferred. The most desirable items are sweaters, jackets, coats, socks, gloves & blankets. Not desirable are dress suits & shirts, neck ties, sport shirts, underwear & pants.

The Alliance is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 1979. For further information, call the Alliance at (617) 558-4144.



Forgotten by World, Afghans Plunge Into Misery



By JOHN DARNTON

Special to The New York Times

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — The Sar Shahi camp for people displaced by the war, a vast checkerboard of tents extending as far as the eye can see, sits on a barren plateau of rocks and gravel and fries in the sweltering Afghan sun like a skillet on a stove.

There is no natural source of water within an hour's walk and scarcely a tree to cast a sliver of shade. The temperature hits 105 or 106 degrees these summer days, so hot that people just stay in their tents, almost too listless to swat away the flies.

"Here it's a desert and there is nothing to do, just to sit and wait for rations," said Mohammed Akbar, 35, who lives in the camp with his wife and three children. In his right hand, he toyed with one of his few possessions, a tape measure. "This is not a life."

The camp is home to 118,000 people and is growing by about 30 families a day. Almost all have fled from Kabul, the capital, 70 miles east, where fighting began again on Jan. 1 among the various factions of mujahedeen who expelled the Soviets in 1989 and toppled the Soviet-backed Government in April 1992.

Their own feuding has been more destructive than the Soviet era. In the previous 12 years of guerrilla warfare the capital remained largely intact. Now it is in ruins from rocket attacks and street fighting as the forces of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and President Burhanuddin Rabbani struggle for control. More than 11,000 people have been killed and 500,000 made homeless in the last seven months.

Five years ago the world was paying attention to what was happening here. Two years ago there was hope that the world's largest concentration of refugees, some six million Afghans in Pakistan and Iran, would finally return home, and some 2.7 million eventually did. But the fighting has renewed, and now it goes on in international obscurity.

There are still 3.3 million refugees outside Afghanistan — 1.5 million in Pakistan and 1.8 million in Iran. The return of refugees ebbed, and the tide started running in the other direction. The huge camps outside Peshawar and Quetta in Pakistan, with ever-expanding numbers of adobe houses, electrical lines and health and educational services, have become like established villages.

The refugees there are integrating ever more deeply into the local economy or even sending their bread-winners flying off to jobs in Arab countries on the Persian Gulf with their families securely settled behind. Aid



John Darnon/The New York Times

officials say that some will probably never go back despite the fact that international aid is scheduled to be cut off next year.

"I have two sons and two grandsons," said Malik Jader, a 70-year-old refugee with a flowing white beard who lives in Nasirbagh camp in Peshawar. "The sons earn 100 rupees a day and the grandsons 50 rupees. So I live like a king."

Like most refugees, he insisted that he would return to his village once the fighting stopped and the land mines were cleared. "Overnight," he said, showing off his seven-room house. "I would even leave the beams of this house." But he admitted that his grandchildren had adjusted to life in Pakistan and had even taken up Pakistani customs like playing cricket.

To try to stem the flow of new arrivals, Pakistan closed the border in mid-January. It is still possible for refugees to slip through along well-worn routes off the main road or to bribe their way past border guards. But for the most part they have stopped going to Pakistan, and many now settle here in the desolate Sar Shahi camp 10 miles outside of Jalalabad.

It is a cruel place to live, a sprawl of tents spread over six square miles of lunar landscape. The site was chosen by the shura, the governing body of local leaders, over the objections of United Nations staff members, apparently because it was far enough out of town to keep problems at bay.

For these and other refugees at the Sar Shahi camp in Afghanistan, the present is wretched and the future bleak. The camp, a sprawl of tents over six

square miles, is a cruel place to live, with no natural source of water, few trees and temperatures over 100 degrees. Some 118,000 refugees now occupy it.

Digging a latrine can take up to a week. A Danish agency has been drilling fruitlessly for water. The latest well, the third, has gone down 260 feet without finding any. Water is trucked in daily by 30 tankers, which can still provide only about 11 quarts of the daily requirement of about 15 per person.

Six people died of heat stroke in a single week recently, and children are dying from diarrhea because some inhabitants, loath to use communal latrines that are not always kept clean and private, have taken to defecating in the open fields.

Most residents seem to have rashes from the bugs and heat, and they say that disease is rife, that the medicine doled out by the clinic seems ineffective and that the rations of wheat flour and cooking oil are not enough.

"The worst thing is the heat," said Ala Gul, who is 55. "That and the scorpions and the snakes. This is not a place to live."

Mir Ata, who lost his son when a rocket struck his house in Kabul, said he wanted to return to the capital but was afraid to. Even his age, 75, would not save him, he said.

"When the Soviets were here, they never killed people like me," he said. "They looked for young people. But now the fighters don't care. Women, children, old men — they'll kill anyone."

Away from the TV Cameras, the Agony of Afghans Continues

AS fighting between various Afghan factions continues intermittently, fears abound of outbreaks of cholera and typhoid epidemics in Kabul in the hot summer. Water sources have already been treated with chlorine, so as to reduce the risks of water-borne diseases in a country where virtually all infrastructure has broken down after 17 years of civil war.

Wherever people live in Kabul, they have to come to terms with the breakdown of services. Electricity rarely functions, except for those institutions with generators, and neither does the telephone system.

Fuel for heating and cooking is extremely expensive. Water is now mostly drawn from pumps in the streets, and uncollected rubbish as well as rubble from ruined buildings has accumulated everywhere.

The poor state of nutrition and health makes the one-and-a-half-million people living in Afghanistan's capital particularly vulnerable.

After arming the Afghans to teeth the big powers have lost interest in the ongoing fighting between the forces of the government led by Professor Bhabaruddin Rabbani and Ahmed Shah Massoud, and the combined forces of Hizb-Islami headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar (who was named Prime Minister) and General Dostum.

The impact of the fighting varies greatly in different areas of the city. Some quarters, like Afshar, which were densely populated only last year now lie in ruins.

The three Mikroyans, newer areas of Soviet-built apartment blocks, have also suffered great damage, but Khairkhana and some other areas are relatively unscathed, suffering only stray rocket attacks.

Air raids over Kabul have ceased because of earlier losses of war planes and the increasing risks of flying un serviced, unairworthy planes.

Despite severe difficulties a small number of experts, expatriates as well as Afghans, are helping to maintain the city's essential services.

In Kabul, as in other cities, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stands out as a remarkably well organised operation giving humanitarian help to thousands of victims of war.

The largest of Kabul's hospitals are functioning through the dedication of teams of Afghan doctors and nurses. Vital medicines, bandages and medical equipment are all provided by the ICRC, along with salaries.

Many hospital beds are filled with wounded fighters from opposed sides — though doctors never ask to which party they are affiliated.

The hospitals are keeping strictly neutral in this senseless power struggle which is steadily destroying what is left of Kabul.

The savage destruction of Kabul resulted in hundreds of thousands of refugees quitting for safer places, like Jalalabad to the south, where at least there is no fighting. But large numbers of homeless people still remain, often because they can not afford the cost of the ride.

Many public buildings of Kabul, schools and mosques alike, have been appropriated to house displaced families from destroyed areas. In the north of the city 50,000 refugees are sheltered in this way. They are living in terribly crowded conditions, often three families to one room.

As a consequence education at all levels has come to a standstill in the capital. Refugees fill the schools and the teachers sit idle.

Higher education courses ended two years ago, and the campus of Kabul University itself is under occupation by fighters of Hizb-i-Wahdat, the powerful Shi'a party which controls a considerable stretch of the capital.

Besides the 50,000 refugees occupying public buildings, an estimated 300,000 more Kabulis have managed to take shelter with their relatives elsewhere in the city.

Says Peter Stocker of the ICRC delegation in Kabul: "They are perhaps not in danger of starvation, but if the blockade continues, the situation risks becoming unbearable."

Bread is the staple food for most Kabulis. Flour prices have risen rapidly since January 1, when the last round of fighting erupted.

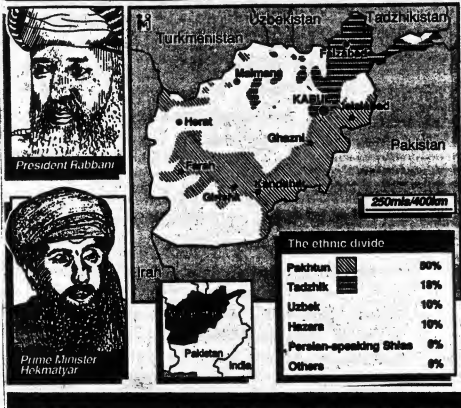
Food became a weapon in the struggle, when Hizb-Islami fighters began preventing flour and other supplies reaching people living in areas of the capital controlled by the government forces.

Since April, though, a steady flow of flour in food convoys sent from Pakistan has made a significant difference, by levelling out prices around the divided city.

It is paid for by the World Food Programme of the UN.

Anthony Hyman writes from Kabul

Afghanistan



but coordinated and distributed by the ICRC and other non-governmental organisations.

Heavy sacks of flour, 90 kilograms in weight, are shifted across the city on simple wooden pushcarts, often accompanied by four or more members of a family. Some have become petty traders, planning to sell flour or sugar for a small profit in other parts of Kabul. They include former civil servants, schoolteachers, technicians and policemen, who currently have no jobs.

Frequently the victims of cross-fire, the civilian population must also satisfy the greed of the armed fighters at many checkpoints whenever they go around the city. Bribes to pass through the checkpoints are routine.

No pity is being shown towards civilians in this brutal war of attrition. There is much bitterness among civilians at the treatment they are receiving from the armed groups.

Even among those who initially welcomed the downfall of the Moscow-backed government of Mohammed Najibullah in April 1992, the sheer lawlessness of the gunmen has led to alienation and anger.

— GEMINI NEWS

ANTHONY HYMAN is a British freelance journalist and writer, specialising on Central Asia.

The Daily Star

Founder-Editor: Late S. M. Ali

Dhaka, Thursday, June 16, 1994

BOOK REVIEWS

THE POLITICS OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN AND PAKISTAN, edited by Myron Weiner & Ali Banuazizi, Syracuse University Press, 1994. 488 pp. including bibliography and index.

This ambitious volume is the continuation and companion piece to Banuazizi and Weiner's earlier The State, Religion, and Ethnic Politics: Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, published in 1986. The two together mark the attempt to carve out and examine common features of these three countries politically and sociologically. The latest volume is the more sophisticated, for in it each section juxtaposes articles on all the countries on a common theme: political elites, political economy and women, rather than having three sections, one per country, as did the earlier volume.

Though the juxtaposition of the articles in each section is intriguing, nowhere except in the editor's introduction are explicit comparisons made among the cases. The reader is left with the strong sense of differences in the cases rather than similarities. After all, to indicate that the countries are Muslim, although ethnically diverse, with governmental problems of legitimacy, and whose elites believe in social transformation from the top down are generalizations that may be applied to many diverse parts of the world.

The lack of comparability of the cases in each section is augmented by the fact that the authors come from a variety of academic disciplines, theoretical perspectives, and with expertise often in only one of the countries or, at least, that is what they address. To give an example, the articles on Afghanistan by Anthony Arnold, Olivier Roy, Barnett Rubin and Micheline Centlivres-Demont generally share a tone critical of the former Marxist regime in that country. They indeed form a kind of minibook on their own, despite their positions in the three separate sections of the book. Valentine Moghadam, who writes her article on gender issues in the Islamic Republic of Iran from a Neo-Marxian perspective, hints in a few places that her view of the Marxist regime in Afghanistan is quite different. She obviously believes that real gains for women were made in Afghanistan. Yet because she is writing about Iran, not Afghanistan, comparability and the very real differences in perspective are muted. One is simply left with articles that are critical of all governments no matter what sort they may be.

Material in the articles generally dates from the late 1980s. Some attempt was made to update to about 1992. The editors are to be commended for getting the volume out expeditiously. For those primarily interested in Afghanistan, the volume is a necessary addition to one's collection. One finds here the history of the Marxist parties in Afghanistan, their class and occupational affiliations; and the same for the resistance parties; an analysis of the economic policy of the PDPA; and their policy about women. The basic data in the articles alone is of great importance to scholars in Afghanistan studies.

Audrey C. Shalinsky
University of Wyoming

SISTERS ON THE BRIDGE OF FIRE. JOURNEYS IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HIGH ASIA by Debra Denker, Burning Gate Press, Mission Hills, CA, 1993. 332 pp. \$15.95.

Bless Debra Denker! She really cares about Afghanistan. She has lived with Afghans, she considered marrying one, she learned Dari, she converted to Islam (although we do not know the longevity of that conversion), she traveled with mujahideen into

the real war zone, not simply dipping her toe over the border.

True commitment, therefore, informs her book Sisters on the Bridge of Fire. It is heartening to contrast this with another recent book by an American visitor who goes from picturesque country to picturesque country like an itinerant photographer, writing about himself in different settings. Denker really opens up about herself, offering the reader her own emotions and even the developments in a novel she is trying to write. But they never push out the subjects of her attention, the people among whom she travels.

Afghanistan is not the only Asian country that Denker has visited. She has become a blood sister to the Kalash of Gilgit and Hunza in Pakistan; she has been to Nepal, Tibet, India. Here is a member of the venerable sisterhood of women, beginning with blue-blooded English subjects of Queen Victoria, who just can't keep away from people who have not been caught up in modern Western civilization. Unlike most of them, she did it on a financial shoestring, riding on buses because she couldn't afford to fly, staying at hotels where a major problem was insect life, and encountering some of the infuriating problems with bureaucracy that lurk in wait for the traveler without influence.

All this time, during the war with the Soviets, Denker was sending stories back to publications in the United States hoping to make America aware of the Afghan plight. Like many others, she found no one interested. She did hit pay dirt once, with an assignment from National Geographic, which enabled her to travel first-class at last and sent her message to a wide audience. She also produced a television documentary on Afghan refugees in Pakistan, A Nation Uprooted. And now her story has been given to the world in this fine book, issued by an obscure publishing house that did well by the graphics but whose copyreader nodded toward the end.

The Afghan experiences described here end in 1984. Since then Denker, a very pretty young woman whose coloring and features made it easy to pass for Afghan, has been in another civilization that most of us find exotic, Southern California, and apparently adopting those customs also, since she gives credit to "my teacher of healing and being."

Rhea Talley Stewart
Hartford, CT

Editor's goof: In the last issue the reviewer of Jan Goodwin's PRICE OF HONOR: MUSLIM WOMEN LIFT THE VEIL OF SILENCE ON THE ISLAMIC WORLD was identified as Helena M. Tarzi; she should have been identified as Helena Malikyar.

Reza Ali Khazeni Memorial Foundation Prize

The Reza Ali Khazeni Memorial Foundation announces a competition for the best scholarly paper by a university student on the life, works, thoughts and arts of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi and/or its pertinence to contemporary life. Papers will be judged by an independent body on the basis of originality and scope and should be approximately 20-30 double-spaced pages with an abstract and a bibliography. A first prize of \$1,000 and a second prize of \$500 will be awarded. Submissions accompanied by a curriculum vita, and letter(s) of

recommendation should be postmarked before December 15, 1994 and be sent to the foundation. Contact: Reza Ali Khazeni Memorial Foundation, 136 East South Temple, Suite 2220, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, 801-532-4900, (fax) 801-521-2438.

Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies Newsletter

September-October 1994

PEOPLE

Bahram Tavakolian, Center Visiting Professor, from Dennison University, arrived in Ann Arbor at the end of August 1994. Dr. Tavakolian has been awarded a PICAS Faculty Research Grant for the 1994 Fall Term and will be an official visiting scholar with the U-M Department of Anthropology from September 1 through December 31, 1994. Professor Tavakolian's previous research activities have focused on Afghan nomads and the central state. He plans to spend his time at the U-M developing a new course entitled, "Tribe, State, and Empire: The Historical Foundations of Contemporary Social and Political Patterns in the Middle East." For this course, Dr. Tavakolian intends to research the impact of nineteenth-century British imperialism on the economic and political relationships between tribal populations and centralized states in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Roberta "Robin" Dougherty (MILS, SILS 1993; Center Mellon Fellow, 1991-93) has just been appointed as the Middle East Bibliographer to the library of the University of Pennsylvania. She will be responsible for the entire Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Urdu collection in the library, both for cataloging and for collection development. Congratulations!

Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies Newsletter
September-October 1994

Cabinet disowns Arsala's activities

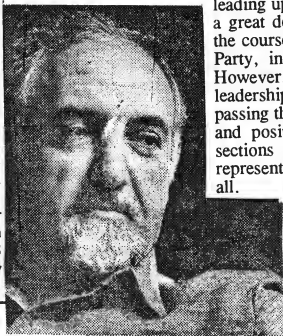
The cabinet of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has distanced itself from the activities of Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala by calling them illegal.

In its meeting on April 27, the cabinet said since the recent visit of Mr Arsala to central Asian countries had taken place without the approval of the cabinet any decisions made by him had no legal base.

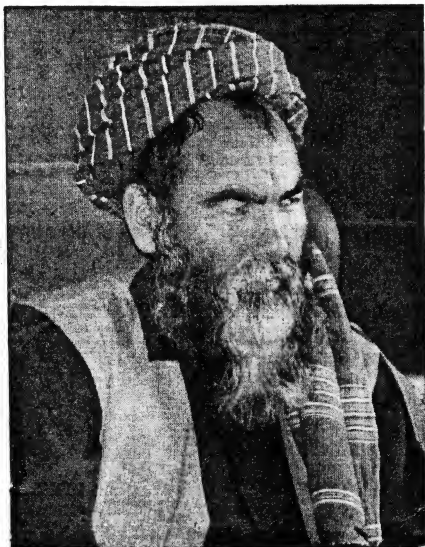
After the breakout of war in Kabul, President Rabbani issued an order suspending the activities of those ministers living outside the country who were not assigned to any formal duty.

Mr Arsala has left Kabul before the resumption of hostilities at the beginning of the year and has remained outside the country since.

Arsala is a resident of Ningarhar Province. He is married to an American woman and carries a U.S. green card. He is affiliated to the party of Sayyed Ahmad Gailani.



Hedayat Amin-Arsala.



MAZARI RE-ELECTED SECRETARY-GENERAL OF WAHDAT PARTY

While the promised general elections of 28 June were indefinitely and illegitimately postponed by the government, Wahdat Party internal elections took place last month. In an open competition held between the Secretary-General and his challenger, Mr Akbari, Mr Mazari retained his position as Secretary-General of Wahdat Party through a definitive majority vote. All other Party positions were also voted on.

In contrast to much of politics in Afghanistan, the Wahdat Party has a deep belief in Party democracy. These latest elections were a true test of this belief. During the period leading up to the elections, the Party's political rivals spent a great deal of energy and money in attempting to derail the course of democracy and creating divisions within the Party, in an effort to undermine its national position. However, the political maturity of the Party and its leadership proved more than capable of successfully passing the test, thereby irrefutably consolidating the rights and position of Afghanistan's previously unrepresented sections - Hazara and otherwise, for the Wahdat Party represents people from many ethnic groups - once and for all.

Wahdat News Bulletin, Vol.2 No.11, July 1994

May, 1994 AFGHANews

Deposed officials' refuge in Aust angers Afghans

By HELEN SIGNY

Australia's 4,000-strong Afghan community is in uproar following the revelation that at least two high-ranking members of the former Soviet-backed regime are living in Australia.

The ABC's 7.30 Report last night named them as the former Afghan vice-president, Mr Abdul Hamid Mohtat, and the former deputy of the military division of the Afghan secret service, the Khad, General Qadir Miakhl.

Under the Soviet-backed Najibullah regime, elements of the Khad are alleged to have tortured and massacred thousands of civilians before the rebel Mujahideen took power in 1992.

Human rights agencies have reported that 1.5 million Afghans died during the conflict.

General Miakhl, who arrived in Australia 14 months ago and now lives in western Sydney, and Mr Mohtat acknowledged their former positions to the ABC yesterday. But both denied that they had been guilty of any wrongdoing.

"I was not involved in such a campaign during my job and I have fully elaborated this when I applied for refuge to the UN in India and they are aware of my background."

He said he was appointed deputy head of the Khad's military division for one year in 1982, where he had negotiated with surrendered Mujahideen commandos. He had no knowledge of human rights abuses allegedly committed by members of the Khad.

A flood of Afghan refugees applied to come to Australia after 1989, with their applications being processed through Australian consular missions in India and Pakistan.

The chairman of the Afghanistan Freedom League in Sydney, Mr Hassan Besodi, said the Afghan community, many members of which had lost relatives, was outraged that former high ranking officials of the Najibullah government were now in Australia and would take action against them.

General Miakhl had been attacked by a group of Afghans after he appeared at a funeral at Rookwood Cemetery last October, he said.

"The Afghan people cannot tolerate to see him living here

comfortably ... [He brings] tension in the community ... The people of Afghanistan hate to see his face."

The Afghanistan Freedom League has been writing to the Federal Government for five years regarding the status of Afghan refugees and former high-ranking officials who have been allowed to enter the country. Last year, the Department of Immigration informed the community that it was investigating the allegations.

The Sydney Morning Herald

June 21

ASIS 'helped' key Afghan spies

By NORMAN LIAISON
ABJORENSEN

Australia's overseas spy service, ASIS, keen to win a lucrative slice of intelligence information from the Soviet Union's former puppet regime in Afghanistan, helped a number of key figures in the former regime to enter Australia, it was claimed on ABC television's *The 7.30 Report* last night.

The program revealed the presence in Australia of Afghanistan's former vice-president, Abdul Hamid Mohtat, a former general in Afghanistan's feared secret service, Abdul Qadir Miakhl, and a former army colonel accused by refugees of masterminding a terrorist bombing campaign of refugee camps in Pakistan.

The admission of the colonel came despite an assessment by the New Delhi station chief of the Australian Security Intelligence Service (ASIS) that the man had been involved in the terrorist bombing of his own people.

The revelations have shocked the small Afghan emigre community in Australia whose

ASIS ignored in terrorist visa bungle

By MARK RILEY

in Canberra

The Federal Government ignored security advice granting permanent residency to a terrorist who had organised the bombing of Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, it was alleged in the Senate yesterday.

The Opposition spokesman on Immigration, Senator Jim Short, told Parliament that the terrorist, who he did not name, had been interviewed by an Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) officer in New Delhi in 1989.

The ASIS officer had established that the man was involved in organising the bombing of refugee camps in Pakistan and should not be allowed into the country, Senator Short said.

His view was supported by the immigration officer in New Delhi and the then deputy head of the Australian mission, Mr John Woods.

"Why did the Government override the advice of these people and grant permanent residency to this person?" Senator Short asked.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate, Senator Evans, said he could not comment on matters

relating to ASIS "for good policy reasons".

A spokeswoman for Senator Bolkus said the minister knew nothing about the alleged terrorist and had not been given a name.

The allegations come on top of controversy over the granting of permanent residency to the former deputy of the Afghan secret service's military division, General Qadir Miakhl.

The secret service, Khad, was reputedly responsible for the systematic torture of political prisoners

under the Soviet-backed Najibullah government in the 1980s.

It has been estimated that 1.5 million people were killed during the civil war, which led to tens of thousands of refugees fleeing the country.

Senator Bolkus told a Senate estimates committee yesterday that he had asked the Department for Immigration to investigate Mr Miakhl's background last year after receiving a letter of complaint from the Afghan Freedom League in Australia.

He said the department had not acted on his request and he had ordered an inquiry into why it had "stuffed up".

The deputy secretary of the Immigration Department, Mr Dennis Richardson, admitted to the committee that Senator Bolkus's request had not been acted upon.

"The department has clearly failed in that respect," he said.

"Why that is so, that is something we are now seeking to get to the bottom of."

Senator Bolkus said he was seeking advice about whether Mr Miakhl's permanent residency could be revoked.

Senator Short has alleged in the Senate that the Minister for Defence, Senator Ray, was warned about the background of Mr Miakhl by the Afghan Freedom League in January 1989. He said the minister acknowledged the concerns in a letter to the league four months later.

The former vice-president of the Afghan Freedom League, Mr Abdul Hamid Mohtat, entered Australia last September on a one-month visitor's visa and made an unsuccessful application for refugee status.

Mr Bolkus's spokeswoman said Mr Mohtat had left the country on Tuesday despite awaiting the result of an appeal with the Refugee Review Tribunal.

"We now know that he has left the country and has not got a re-entry visa," she said.

Mr Mohtat and Mr Miakhl admitted their former government positions to the ABC's 7.30 Report this week but denied they had been involved in war crimes.

The Afghan Government has asked Australia to punish or deport alleged members of the former Soviet-backed regime who are thought to be living here.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan Embassy in New Delhi has also sought the identities of senior members of Khad who were alleged to have been recruited to spy for Australia.

Gen. Abdul Rasheed Dostum: Acting as the Kabul kingmaker



An Uzbek, Dostum triggered the collapse of Dr Najibullah's government when he changed sides in April 1992 and helped Rabbani-Masood to torpedo the UN peace plan that called for a peaceful transfer of power to an interim government of neutral Afghans. Unable to become Afghanistan's ruler because he belongs to a small ethnic group, Dostum has sought to assume the role of kingmaker by championing the cause of the ethnic and religious minorities.

The former factory worker, whose militia was credited with both bravery and savagery, took up arms against his former allies — Rabbani and Masood — and sided with Hikmatyar and the Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat in the latest battle for Kabul that began on January 1, 1994. But victory has eluded their unlikely alliance and the myth of invincibility which surrounded Dostum has been shattered.

Dostum, who has attracted most of the former communists to his ranks, recently lost his formidable base at Kabul's Balahisar fort in a surprise offensive by Rabbani's forces, provoking him to retaliate against the government in the Baghlan and Kunduz provinces in northern Afghanistan and in Herat in western Afghanistan. Despite recent military setbacks, Dostum remains a powerful factor in the Afghan power-game as he surveys his fractious homeland from his northern Afghanistan headquarters of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Abdur Rab Rasul Sayyaf: A friend in need

A Pashtoon from the summer resort of Paghman near Kabul, Sayyaf has stood by Rabbani at a time when almost every mujahideen leader has turned against him. Sayyaf's alliance with Rabbani has immensely helped the latter not only to counter the campaign that his government was anti-Pashtoon but has also ensured continued Arab backing, especially by Saudi Arabia.

A favourite of both official and private Arab donors for long, Sayyaf has prudently used his money to buy rival commanders in a bid to strengthen his comparatively smaller party, educate his supporters and take care of the victims of the war. He has also waged a relentless battle against the Afghan Shias, thereby earning admiration of certain Arab and Sunni extremists and making Iran one of his major opponents.

Abdul Ali Mazari: The Shia factor



A Hazara by race, Mazari is a Shia cleric who heads the Hezb-i-Wahdat formed after the merger of eight Shiite Afghan mujahideen groups based in Iran throughout the Afghan war. From his base in western Kabul,

Mazari has overcome challenges to his leadership both from partymen like Akbari and from the Rabbani government and its Ittehad-i-Islami ally, Prof. Sayyaf.

Estimates of Afghanistan's Shia population range from 10 to 25 per cent, but Mazari as well as other independent Shiite parties like Shaikh Asef Mohseni's Harkat-i-Islami have assumed importance owing to the sizeable Shia presence in Kabul. Thus the Shias could prove either an asset or a nuisance for anyone wanting to control the nation's capital.

Mazari's alliance with Hikmatyar has helped overcome some of the historically bitter ties between Hazaras and Pashtoons, but his rivalry with another Pashtoon, Prof. Sayyaf, led to allegations of some of the most heinous crimes by the two communities against each other in 1992-93.

—Rahimullah Yusufzai

Burhanuddin Rabbani: Presiding over a shattered country



A Tajik from Badakhshan province in northeastern Afghanistan, Rabbani was a teacher before fleeing to Pakistan after the failure of the Islamists' uprising against President Sardar Daoud's government in the early 1970s. Accompanying him was Gulbaddin Hikmatyar, then his ally but now his bitter rival. The two, joined later by Maulvi Yunis Khalis, set up shop in Peshawar and started making efforts to destabilise Afghanistan.

The late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's PPP government took the Afghan leaders under its wings with Maj. Gen. Naseerullah Babar, presently the country's Interior Minister, guiding them to pay back Daoud in the same coin for his Pashtoonistan campaign directed against Pakistan. Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami subsequently played a crucial role in the Afghan 'jihad' started against the PDPA regime, which through a military coup d'état on April 27, 1978, had toppled President Daoud and heralded its so-called Saur Revolution.

Under the terms of the Peshawar Accord brokered by Pakistan, Rabbani became the country's President, initially for four months, towards the end of June 1992. However he has used his position to prolong his rule. Having manipulated to extend his term of office for another six months until December 1994 in violation of the Islamabad and Jalalabad accords, he appears keen to win a fresh tenure from 1995 onwards. Labelled anti-Pashtoon by his opponents, Rabbani and his government depend on powerful Jamiat-i-Islami commanders like Ahmad Shah Masood, Ismail Khan, Mulla Naqibullah, and Panah for their survival.

Gulbaddin Hikmatyar: A bitter struggle for power



A Pashtoon from the Kunduz province in northeastern Afghanistan, Hikmatyar was active in student politics in Kabul as a member of the country's fledgling Islamist movement. Like Rabbani and Khalis, he spent about 19 years in Pakistan, waging a long struggle first against Daoud and later against the Khalqis and Parchamis. With support from the so-called Free World comprising diverse elements like the US, China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Iran, Hikmatyar and other mujahideen leaders fought and forced the Red Army to abandon Afghanistan and in the process played no mean part in accelerating the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Since April 1992, when the mujahideen were installed in power after the ouster of Dr Najibullah's government, Hikmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami has been engaged in a bitter power struggle, primarily with Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami. He has switched alliances, even befriending a foe like militia boss Gen. Rasheed Dostum, to achieve his objective. But a victory still eludes the radical Islamist leader.

Made Prime Minister in accordance with the terms of the Islamabad Accord, Hikmatyar was unable to take up his job in Kabul due to the threats posed to his security by Rabbani's forces.

Other Afghan power-brokers: Minor actors in a major drama

Pir Sayed Ahmad Gaillani's National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), Prof. Sebgatullah Mojadeddi's Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi's Harkat-i-Inqilab-i-Islami and Maulvi Yunis Khalis's Hezb-i-Islami have gradually faded from the scene, because they aren't involved in the bloody power struggle in Afghanistan, especially in Kabul.

Except for Khalis, the other three were known as moderate and nationalist with a tilt towards former

Afghan king, Zahir Shah. These parties do have their pockets of influence and could do well if free and fair elections were held in the country, but they lack muscle power which is a must if one wishes to play a role in present-day Afghanistan. Gaillani is drifting towards the anti-Rabbani camp; Mojadeddi is a member of the Hikmatyar-led Supreme Coordination Council for an Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan (SCCIRA); Mohammadi is no longer an ally of Rabbani and Khalis as usual, is on a solo,

THE NEWS
Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad

Jalalabad's airport wants to go international

By Ahmed Rashid in Jalalabad

International civil aviation officials, already tearing their hair over the civil-aviation problems of China and Russia, are in for another shock. The city of Jalalabad, in eastern Afghanistan, wants its airport to be given international status.

No matter that dogs and donkeys wander on to the apron at will and that the city has no electricity or running water. When it comes to their airport, Jalalabad's residents have civic pride. A take-off is a major social event, with the locals cheering wildly and shooting their guns in the air. None of them doubt that the world will take their request very seriously.

"See, we have put in new glass windows and painted the terminal. Please tell everyone outside Afghanistan that we are ready for visitors," says a proud Kalashnikov-toting guard outside the building. Jalalabad's city fathers say foreign airlines would be most welcome at their airport.

The foreign carriers themselves might have second thoughts. Situated on the edge

July 21, 1994

→ FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW

→ MIDEAST WORLD MONITOR



Reminder of war: Hekmatyar's gunship at Jalalabad airport.

of town, the airport was once a landing strip used by Soviet fighters to strafe the mujahideen. It is still surrounded by evidence of a vicious three-month battle in 1990, when the mujahideen tried to capture Jalalabad from President Mohammad Najibullah's forces in order to make it their interim capital. That attack petered out, but with Najibullah's ouster the airport is now in mujahideen hands. But millions of mines remain sown around the airport perimeter, burnt-out armoured vehicles litter the potholed roads and almost every building has been gutted by shells. Even after a bit of refurbishment, the airport remains a nightmare. A thin strip of newly laid bitumen, smuggled in from Pakistan, runs down the centre of what used to be the runway. The Soviet-laid concrete on either side is pitted with mortar and rocket craters.

At 1.8 kilometres, the strip is too short for a fully loaded Boeing 727, so when Afghanistan's national carrier, Ariana, flew Afghan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the Haj, the airline could take off with only one third the normal number of passen-

gers. After these were deposited in New Delhi, the aircraft returned to pick up the rest. The whole planelod then left New Delhi for Jeddah.

United Nations relief agencies use the airport, and so do the mujahideen. Parked on one side is a Soviet helicopter gunship belonging to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is fighting the forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani outside Kabul. Ariana, however, parks its Boeings overnight in the neighbouring Pakistani city of Peshawar for safety.

"We plan to extend the runway to 3.7 kilometres, and when Pakistan refused to help us we have asked Saudi King Fahd for money," said Saaz Noor, deputy governor of the Jalalabad Shura, or Islamic council. None of the bearded and conservative Shura members know much about civil aviation rules, and they have asked Ariana's



Burhanuddin Rabbani

Afghanistan's Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, while refusing to agree to a ceasefire, expressed his readiness to meet with Hamid Al-Ghabid, the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Countries, who is attempting to get all the Afghan leaders to meet somewhere inside Afghanistan to agree on a mechanism to bring peace to the country. Al-Ghabid believes that a meeting of the Afghan leaders will pave the way for the formation of a wider Majlis al-Shura which is the only hope to bring peace to the country. Pakistan's Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar however has expressed his doubt that Al-Ghabid's plan will work.

While Afghani President Burhanuddin Rabbani agrees to a ceasefire as a first step to a settle-



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar

ment, Hekmatyar said his forces will not agree to a ceasefire until the forces of Rabbani withdraw from the areas they captured after a June 26 offensive. In late June, Rabbani undertook an offensive which pushed back the allied forces of Hekmatyar and former communist Abdul Rashid Dostum out of Bala Hissar, Tapa Maranjan, and Dar al-Aman thus reducing their presence in Kabul to a minimum. President Rabbani's term was supposed to have ended on June 28 and Hekmatyar further demands that Rabbani hand over power to a leadership council empowered to choose a transitional government until elections can be held. Hekmatyar also insists that Dostum's militia be allowed to participate in the leadership council, something which Rabbani rejects.

pilots to make the necessary applications. Ariana has already flown from Jalalabad to Dubai, Delhi and Jeddah. Now it wants permission to fly to Paris and London.

In a corner of the terminal, four stew-ardesses of Ariana put the finishing touches to their makeup before flying off to New Delhi. They are clothed in *chadors*, the almost all-covering garments favoured by their country's fundamentalist overlords, though the logistics of "tea or coffee, sir?" may be a little difficult in the outfit.

The fact that there has been no fighting in the area since 1990 has made the Jalalabad Shura optimistic about its airport going international. →

"This is a haven of tranquillity. People have tasted the results of peace and unity and they know it is better than fighting," says Shura chief Noor. Adds a guerrilla commander and Shura member: "Kabul airport is unusable. So ours should become the national airport for Afghanistan."

That, precisely, has led to some fears. Jalalabad is known to be a major shipping point for heroin. "People face economic difficulties. Drugs will only be eliminated if economic sustenance comes from abroad," says the Shura's Noor. An international airport would certainly help move Jalalabad's main export. ■

Frontier Post 7/22

India increases flights to Kabul

ISLAMABAD, July 21, (PPI): "There had been a rise in the Indian flights to Afghanistan during the last month (June)", a foreign office spokesman said on Thursday. "According to reports, twenty-nine Indian flights landed in Afghanistan during the month of June as compared to only eight Indian flights flown to Afghanistan in May", the spokesman said while briefing reporters.

NYT 7/24

New Russian Envoy to U.S.

MOSCOW, July 23 (AP) — Russia's delegate to the United Nations, Yuli M. Vorontsov, will be its new Ambassador to the United States, President Boris N. Yeltsin announced today.

A 64-year-old career diplomat, Mr. Vorontsov is considered one of Mr. Yeltsin's top foreign policy advisers. He replaces Vladimir P. Lukin, who left the post after being elected to the Russian Parliament last December.

Mr. Vorontsov has served as an Ambassador to France and India as well as Afghanistan, where he oversaw the withdrawal of Soviet troops in 1988 and 1989.

He was appointed Soviet representative to the United Nations in 1990 and became Russia's representative after the Soviet Union collapsed a year later.



Yuli Vorontsov

THE FRONTIER POST 29 JUL 1994
PESHAWAR

Masood seeks Indian help for Rabbani

NEW DELHI (PPI) — Afghan leader Ahmad Shah Masood visited India last month to seek Indian assistance for making the Rabbani government's air force operational, highly reliable sources confirmed here on Thursday.

He is reported to have held discussions with top defence officials in New Delhi. As a result, another contingent of about 20 air force technicians have been sent to Bagram airbase in Afghanistan for maintenance and repair of SU-22 and MIG-21 aircraft.

The Indian authorities are also reported to have agreed to send three transport aircraft to Bagram airbase for use by Masood's

troops, besides training his men in India.

The sources said as a result of the agreement reached between Masood and the Indian officials, New Delhi would purchase small arms, guns and ammunition from Czech Republic for his troops.

Earlier, the sources said General Fahim, chief of Afghan government troops, paid three visits to India last month to discuss increased cooperation between India and the Rabbani government in military affairs.

One of the subjects, the sources said, discussed during these visits was the training of Afghan intelligence agency per-

THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD 7/29

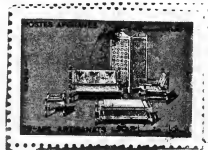
Dostum threatens to bomb oil convoy

JULY 28: Afghan warlord Gen Rashid Dostum has threatened to bomb a convoy of oil tankers if it entered the Afghan territory from Tajikistan, BBC reported.

The convoy was destined to go to the area controlled by the forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani but has stopped at the river between the Afghan border

and the Central Asian Republic. Earlier this month an aircraft of General Dostum forces dropped two bombs on another convoy in the area.

BBC correspondent in Tashkent said about 50 oil tankers were to cross the river and to go to Sher Khan Bander.



Rival Afghan warlords clashes claim 50 lives

HERAT (Afghanistan) July 28: While Afghanistan's beleaguered government was talking politics at a meeting on Wednesday in western Herat province, rival warlords fought a pitched battle in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 50 people.

A powerful commander, known only as Qarar, ambushed his enemy, commander Nisar Khan, outside a provincial prison in eastern Laghman province on Wednesday, killing Khan and 36 of his men.

Reprisal attacks have left another 13 people dead, according to several Afghan sources, who said the fighting has spread throughout the province.

Meanwhile, in the arid capital of Herat province, President Burhanuddin Rabbani appealed to Afghanistan's warring factions to lay down their weapons.

He offered to step down in three months and hand over power to an interim president, who would oversee elections.

Rabbani's offer came at the end of a week-long meeting of an estimated 600 Afghans, who were trying to find a political end to the

factional fighting that has ravaged Afghanistan since Islamic rebels took power from the communists in 1992.

The worst fighting has been between troops loyal to Rabbani and forces aligned with renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar tried to overthrow Rabbani in a failed coup attempt last January 1. Since then the outlaw prime minister has battled Rabbani's forces destroying much of the capital of Kabul and killing about 1,500 people and wounding thousands more.

The two men were once allies against the communists, but turned their weapons on each other in an unabashed bid for power.

The Herat meeting of mostly Rabbani supporters agreed to set up a 65-member committee empowered to choose an interim president and organise a Loya Jirga or council that would act as an interim government until elections can be held, said Ismail Khan, governor of Herat province.

However, the meeting was not attended by Hekmatyar or his Uzbek ally, ex-communist general Rashid Dostum.

Both Hekmatyar and Dostum are heavily armed and few people expect a lasting peace in Afghanistan is possible without their support.

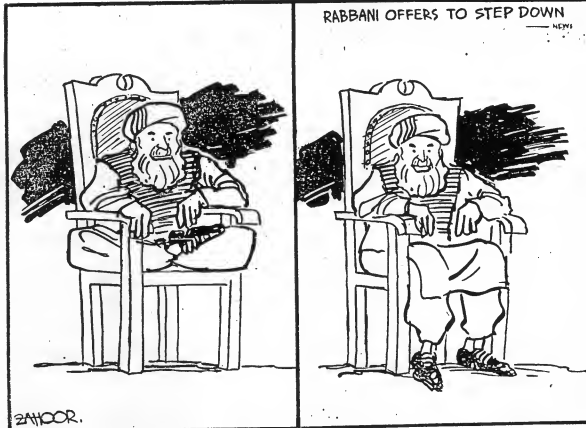
Ismail Khan said Hekmatyar was invited to attend, but Dostum was rejected because of his communist past.

"Afghan society is essentially Islamic", said Khan adding there was no place in any government for ex-communists.—AP.

THE PAKISTAN TIMES
ISLAMABAD

29 JUL 1994

RABBANI OFFERS TO STEP DOWN



Frontier Post

29 JUL 1994

THE NEWS
R'Pindi/Islamabad. 29 JUL 1994

By Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: The UN Special Mission on Afghanistan headed by Ambassador Mahmoud Mestiri has termed the outcome of the Herat meeting as an important development.

However, a Mission source refrained from commenting on Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani's offer to step down as president of Afghanistan.

Prof Rabbani has declared his readiness to resign as a new formula emerged Wednesday from an Afghan

council meeting held in Herat to end the prolonged Afghan conflict.

Under the Islamabad accords, his tenure as president ended on June 28, but he refused and extended his term by six months.

Ambassador Mestiri, who arrived here five days ago, to re-start his peace mission, Thursday met two Afghan leaders including Pir Ahmad Gillani and Ayatullah Mohsini for the second time since his arrival here.

His deputy, Sotrious Mousouris, when asked about the meeting, said

the Mission would make an official announcement on it Friday. "At the moment, I cannot say more on the meeting," he said.

On July 30, Ambassador Mestiri will go to Jalalabad to open the UN Mission's office there.

Mousouris said the ambassador had contacted several Afghan leaders during his stay. However, his meetings with two main belligerents, Prof. Rabbani and Engineer Gulbeddin Hekmatyar are yet to be finalised. Similarly, he is yet to visit Kabul.

New Delhi to purchase weapons for Rabbani

NEW DELHI: Afghan leader Ahmad Shah Masood visited India last month to seek Indian assistance for making the Rabbani regime's air force operational, highly reliable sources confirmed here Thursday.

He is reported to have held discussions with top defence officials in Delhi. As a result, another contingent of about 20 air force technicians have been sent to Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan for maintenance and repair of Su-22 and Mig-21 aircraft.

The Indian authorities, reportedly, have also agreed to send three transport aircraft to Bagram Airbase for use by Masood's troops, besides training his men in India.

The sources further disclosed that as a result of the agreement reached between Masood and the Indian officials, New Delhi would purchase small arms, guns and ammunition from Czechoslovakia for his troops.

Earlier, the sources disclosed General Fahim, chief of Afghan government troops, paid three visits to India last month to discuss increased cooperation between India and the Rabbani regime in military affairs.—PPI

THE NEWS
R'Pindi/Islamabad.

Mestiri hopeful of Afghan solution

Fuel convoy from Tajekistan stopped to enter Afghanistan

30 JUL 1994

PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD.

The Afghan convoy carrying oil destined for Rabbani's controlled area has been stopped in Tajekistan. Reports say that due to Dostum's threat, supply of oil to Afghanistan has been stopped. Elan Johnston of BBC reports from Tashkent.

The oil carrying convoy drama was staged on bank of Panj river. Afghanistan is situated to south and Tajekistan is to north of Panj river. A convoy of 50 oil tankers was on its way to Afghanistan. The oil was to be supplied to forces of the Afghan President Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. But the Afghan warlord Gen Rashid Dostum who is an opponent of President Rabbani warned that his forces would at-

tack the oil convoy if it entered into Afghanistan. A jet plane dropped two bombs in Sher Khan Bander close to Tajekistan border which diplomats believe, was warning from Dostum.

Hundreds of Tajek refugees took shelter in Sher Khan Bander area of Afghanistan following eruption of civil war in Tajekistan. They are waiting to cross the river and go back to their homes. If the convoy was attacked in surroundings of Sher Khan Bander then it will be detrimental to their return. The oil convoy has been stopped in Tajekistan for the last two weeks. At present small ships are being used for carrying food grains and other commodities which are also being attacked from Afghanistan side.

It has also been reported that Uzbek rulers are opposed to sending of these tankers to Afghanistan. It is said that they are doing so because the Uzbek leadership supports Rashid Dostum in Afghanistan fighting because he is an Uzbek.

Diplomats said that Uzbeks are in control of a number of ships all boats and they do not want supply of oil to enemies of Rashid Dostum. It indicates that there are differences between Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation over the Afghan issue. The Tajek southern borders are still being controlled by the Russian forces. Passing of oil convoy will be a difficult task. Contrary to Uzbek wishes, the Russians want to supply oil to forces of the Afghan President Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Rabbani wants favourites in diplomatic staff

From Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR—Following their success in getting favourable results from Herat conference, both President Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani and his close supporter Prof Rasool Sayyaf of Itehad Islami are now struggling to replace the nominees of other Jihadic forces, working on important diplomatic posts in foreign countries, particularly in those countries which have been concerned over the long awaiting Afghan conflict.

Some confidential sources told The Nation that for this purpose Prof Rabbani and Rasool Sayyaf have authorised some of their close supporters to finalise their proposals in a minimum time period. Both of them are struggling to appoint people of

their choice against diplomatic posts in a bid to convince maximum Afghan refugees included Mujahideen commanders, ulema, tribal chieftains, intellectuals and former technocrats to muster support on the proposed meeting of the Loya Jirga to be held on October 23 next.

The sources further said that likewise, the 60-member commission, formed in Herat conference was also dominated by favourites of Rabbani and Rasool Sayyaf. This commission will finalise names of the representatives to the proposed meeting of the Loya Jirga. Only two Jehadic forces included Jamiat of Prof Rabbani and Ittehad Islami of Rasool Sayyaf had endorsed decisions of the conference while remaining all Jehadic and political forces had opposed it. An Afghan diplomat in Peshawar while commenting on the outcome of the Herat conference said that, "It strengthened Rabbani's government."

THE NATION

LAHORE

30 JUL 1984

Mestiri meets 3 Afghan leaders in Islamabad

PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD.

ISLAMABAD—The visiting head of UN Special Mission to Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri met with three important Afghan leaders in Islamabad. Diplomatic sources told *Pakistan Observer* that Mestiri during his meeting with Pir Syed Ahmed Gilani, Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and Ayatullah Asif Mohseini appreciated the efforts of these leaders towards a rapprochement among the various political parties of Afghanistan and for an early truce in war-torn country as well.

Sources said during the meeting aforesaid three Afghan leaders apprised UN Special Mission's head about the recent gathering of Afghan leaders in Herat, a city of Afghanistan. The three leaders agreed that the conclusions of that meeting contained some elements which, with further efforts, could expedite peaceful political process in Afghanistan; for instance, the need to convene a fully representative *Loya Jirga* (Grand Islamic Assembly) and to make transitional arrangements.

According to UN sources three leaders informed the special mission of the efforts of the OIC, which the mission appreciated. Sources said that UN Special Mission supports the efforts of the three leaders of the neutral parties, and encourages them to pursue their contacts with all concerns.

PAKISTAN
OBSERVER
ISLAMABAD.

M HASSAN

PESHAWAR—Hizbe Islami (II) which survived an abortive coup attempt by pro-Rabbani and Masood forces led by Engineer Qarar in Laghman province, north east of Kabul on Tuesday, lost, is reported to have re-established its position in the province and its forces are said to have been hounding the pro-Rabbani commander Engineer Qarar, in their quest to have him alive or dead.

Afghan sources in Peshawar say the Hizbe Islami forces in the Laghman capital Mehtarlam following the HIA (II) commander Nasir Khan and 40 other HIZB men's killing in the coup, are making hectic efforts to nab the renegade Hizbe commander Engineer Qarar and his men in the surroundings of Mehtarlam.

The death toll in the three days armed clashes between the two

HIA(A) regains lost ground in Laghman

rival forces are reported to have reached 70 with the same number injured in the fighting.

Situation in the Laghman province, which is Hizbe Islami (II)'s stronghold, bordering with Kapisa province held by Ikkamatyar's arch rival Engineer Masood, is reported to be tense and both the forces are poised for fresh fighting in the area. Reports say both the rival forces are being reinforced.

The HIA (II) forces in Laghman is now being commanded by Governor Abdullah Jan after the killing of Commander Nasir Khan and his 40 men in an onslaught by pro-Rabbani forces.

Hizbe Islami sources in Peshawar said their forces had not been able to capture the absconding dissident Commander Qarar. The situation in Laghman, the sources added was completely under control and the rival men had escaped the area.

Iran criticises India for mily support to Kabul

← 30 JUL 1984

LONDON, July 29: A prominent Iranian daily Tehran Times has strongly criticised India for providing military support to the Rabbani regime in Kabul and has warned New Delhi of its adverse repercussions on the process of restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

In an editorial, the newspaper said that the reports pouring in speak of the presence of Indian engineers and technicians in a military base near Kabul to repair the inoperative airplanes of the Kabul regime.

India is also said to have despatched a large consignment of weapons and ammunition for Burhanuddin Rabbani.

These reports, the newspaper said, "do not appear to be far-fetched". The recent victories of Rabbani regime in Bala Hisar region, "gained mainly by the Air Force and the large number of airplanes taking off from the said base are undoubtedly proof" that the Rabbani regime "has received logistic support from abroad", the newspaper said.

Besides, said Tehran Times, the planes available in Afghanistan are mainly Russian-made and since under the region's existing conditions, Russia is not interfering in the matter, India bears the brunt of collaboration with the Rabbani regime.

THE FRONTIER POST

PESHAWAR

Ghahid preparing report on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (PPI) — The OIC secretary-general, Dr. Hamid al-Ghahid, is preparing a detailed report based on the findings of the organisation's peace mission's recent talks with the Afghan leaders in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Sources told PPI here Friday Ghahid would submit his report to all the member countries of the Organisation, of Islamic Conference.

The OIC peace mission, led by Ghahid visited Pakistan and Afghanistan from July 2 to 14 and held talks with Afghan leaders in Peshawar and Kabul to push forward

ward a process by initiating a credible intra-Afghan dialogue for restoration of lasting peace in the War-shattered Afghanistan.

All Afghan leaders have accepted Ghahid's proposal to set up a preparatory committee which would work for convening Afghan shura, which according to the OIC sources, was a major achievement.

The sources said four Afghan parties had sent their nominations for the preparatory committee, adding that the response of all Afghan groups in this respect had been very positive and encouraging.

"The OIC is trying to coordinate with all Afghan parties in an effective manner on the issue of nominations for the committee," the sources said and added that the OIC was, however, constantly in touch with all the parties on the issue.

Ghahid's proposal for setting up of a preparatory committee the sources said, was endorsed by all Afghan parties as well as the recently-concluded Herat meeting.

The sources said all the OIC member states were being kept fully informed about the developments regarding receipt of nominations for the committee from the Afghan parties.



THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

UN got \$4,935,975 aid for Afghanistan during 2 weeks

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR—In the last two weeks of current month the United Nations humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan received financial assistance of 4,935,975 American dollars from various countries, out of which an amount of 3,067,138 dollar was provided for the mine clearance programme which is in progress all over war devastated country.

The United Nations in its weekly issues 94 states that till July 14 it received 1,500,000 US dollars from the United States of America for mine clearance activities. During the same period, the United Nations humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan received 62,948 American dollars from Japan for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for vocational training and the European Union (EU) issued an amount of 1,204,819 for the mine clearance activities. The United Nations humanitarian assistance its weekly issue no 95 states that from July 14 till July 21, it received 724,638 American dollars from the Canadian government.

The said financial assistance aimed at half for the mine clearance activities and the remaining for the welfare of war displaced people of Afghanistan. It further states that during the same period, the Sweden government provided an amount of 1,443,570 American dollars. The Sweden government provided 787,402 for the emergency programme of world food programme and an amount of 656,168 American dollars for the emergency programmes of the UNICEF.

Both the issues of July state that UNHCR monitors Kabul-Jalalabad road registered some 727 families comprising around 5,017 individuals coming from Kabul to Jalalabad. While only 150 families were registered going towards Kabul from Jalalabad and Pakistan. It informed that flow of the war affected people from Kabul is in progress and majority of the people striving to take shelter in Jalalabad and other peaceful places. The reports state that majority of the new displaced people from Kabul have been accommodated in the Samarkhel camp, sponsored by ICRO. Around 500 families have been accommodated in the said camp from July 14 till July 21 last, its states.

The reports further say that around 6,000 people have left Kabul for northern parts of Afghanistan. Earlier in its 94 issues, the United Nations reported that 21,000 war displaced people from Kabul being as-

sisted by the United Nations agencies but the said figures increased to 27,000 in its 95th issue. Likewise, the people residing in eastern parts of Afghanistan increased to 182,240 from 159,000 from July 14, till July 21 last.

The reports state that United Nations agencies focusing on the treatment of children, provision of food to the war affected people and supply of clean drinking water to the people. Heavy portion of the humanitarian assistance being spent on medicines and on the treatment of the malnourished children in the centres established by the UNICEF, it states.

THE NATION
LAWORE

Frontier Post

1/30

New peace initiatives in Afghanistan

PRESIDENT Burhanuddin Rabbani's willingness to step down and hand over power to an interim president can be regarded, at least theoretically, as a positive move to break the unerving Afghan impasse. But while he was making this announcement in the western province of Herat, rival factions were engaged in a pitched battle in the eastern part of the country, killing at least 50 people. The prospects for peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan have proved to be so tricky and elusive that a positive development appears deceptive and without substance. According to reports, Gulbadin Hekmatyar has already resigned from prime ministership. Now Rabbani has offered to vacate the presidential palace in Kabul — purportedly to pave the way for the induction of an interim set-up. Once these two principal antagonists are out of the political scene as part of an arrangement for cessation of hostilities, new possibilities for restoring peace and order to that country can emerge. But along with it, the uncalculated interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by some neighbouring countries and a regular supply of arms to the belligerents must also stop.



Tanai for UN, OIC role in Afghan peace

Former chief of Afghan army, General Shahnawaz Tanai Friday urged UNO, OIC and other international fora to play their effective role in bringing about lasting ceasefire in war-ridden Afghanistan.

Talking to APP in Peshawar Friday, Shahnawaz Tanai, who nowadays heads Suleh-e-ghorzang (peace movement) along with other ex-generals of the Afghan army, said that international forums like UNO, OIC and Muslim Ummah should come forward and initiate fresh efforts for the establishment of permanent peace in war torn Afghanistan.

He said, after the establishment to peace under the supervision of UNO, a non-aligned Shoorah be formed that could convene a meeting of the traditional Loya Jirga (grand assembly) and power be transferred to an impar-

tial government which was not party to the present ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

He was optimistic that UNO, OIC, friendly countries and Muslim Ummah would help Afghan people in this hour of trial. He said, peace could not be established in Afghanistan in the presence of present leaders and that was why presently there was no government, no leader in Afghanistan who could establish his authority there.

In the present situation, former Afghan army chief said, the integrity and solidarity of Afghanistan was in danger and the present so-called leaders of Afghanistan had no guts to pull the country out of the crises. He impressed upon the people to get united by shunning their petty differences and get rid the country out of the present crises.

The United Nations representative in Afghanistan has repeatedly stated that the Afghan people are tired of fighting. It is equally patent that neither of the two main contenders for power can achieve a decisive military victory over its rival. Still a fierce power struggle has been continuing for over two years.

Now that the prolonged efforts by the UN and the OIC mediators have apparently failed to make much progress in their separate peace missions, two new peace initiatives have been undertaken by some Afghan leaders themselves. Three neutral leaders led by Pir Sayyed Gailani of Mahadz-i-Milij have been meeting other factional leaders in an attempt to elicit their support in convening a meeting of party representatives and other influential. The proposed meeting is expected to address the issue of organising a grand shoorah which would form a transitional government in Kabul. The other initiative has been taken by governor of Herat who held a three-day shoorah to form a 65-member committee to coordinate the activities of various factions. This committee has set a deadline of October 23 for convening a national assembly to elect a successor to President Rabbani. The committee is made up of one representa-

tative each from 32 provinces, one each from the nine Mujahideen factions and 24 lawyers, teachers, judges, *ulema* and overseas Afghans. Gulbadin Hekmatyar and his ally General Dostum did not participate in the meeting. Neither did the commanders who are locked in the protracted battle. The main factions engaged in the fratricidal war are President Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami, which enjoys the support of commander Ahmed Shah Masoud, and Hekmatyar's alliance called Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan. Among others who attended the Herat shoorah were some UN representatives from Islamabad, about a hundred Afghans currently based in Western countries and former king Amanullah's 60-year-old son Ehsanullah.

It is too early to predict how far these two new initiatives would succeed in generating a momentum for peace leading, hopefully, to a wider political settlement. Any effort, however small, should be supported to halt killing and devastation in that beleaguered country. What is needed is a concerted move to create a consensus among the Mujahideen leaders to end the hostilities in order that possibilities of a political settle-

ment can be explored more methodically. The UN, the OIC and the two new initiatives must coordinate for the realisation of the common objectives. Unless some progress is made towards a stable ceasefire, it would be unrealistic to expect any reconstruction programme to be undertaken in the war-battered country. Much will depend upon whether the Afghan factions actively engaged in hostilities are willing to lay down arms and opt for a settlement at the negotiating table. It is plain that no peace process can succeed without the involvement of President Rabbani and Hekmatyar.

DAWN
KARACHI

7/30

31 JUL 1994

Three Afghan parties' bid to convene Loya Jirga

ISLAMABAD, July 30 (APP): Three Afghan political parties, known as neutral parties, want to convene a meeting inside Afghanistan in a bid to resolve the outstanding problems of the country, says a Voice of America report.

Special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Mehmood Mestiri may visit Jalalabad soon to try to bring peace in the country.

A source close to National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA) and Harkate-Ingilabi Islami said that Pir Gilani of NIFA, Maulvi Muhammad of Harkate Islami have been busy in consultation for some time now to try to convene a Loya Jirga inside Afghanistan to explore ways and means for solving the problems of that country. Efforts are continuing to persuade other Mujahideen organisations to participate in the meeting. Until now six other organisations, including Milli Islami Jumhah, have agreed to attend the meeting.

President Rabbani and Prof Rasool Sayyaf have also been contacted in this connection and formal invitations have been extended to them, Mr Rabbani confirmed whether a commission has been authorised to invite Afghans living abroad to the meeting.

Meanwhile, head of the special UN delegation for Afghanistan, Mehmood Mestiri would visit Jalalabad soon to hold talks with

BBC man shot dead in Kabul

From Shamim Shahid

PESHAWAR—Mir Wais Jalil, a young Afghan journalist, associated with Pushto services of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), was killed some unknown Afghans at Chilstoon area of Afghan capital.

Mir Wais Jalil, 25, was abducted by some armed men at Chilstoon area on Friday afternoon when he was returning from Charasiab, headquarter of Gulbadin Hikmatyar. Mir Wais was accompanied by an Italian newsmen but the latter was asked to proceed to Kabul and the former was shifted to an unknown place at Chilstoon area.

However, on Saturday morning, the body of Mir Wais Jalil was recovered in Chilstoon area. The volunteers of the ICRC in Kabul after getting the body contacted the relatives of Mir Wais Jalil. The relatives and personnel of the BBC in Kabul have recognised the dead body. Later on, the colleagues of late Mir Wais Jalil conveyed the sad news to his father and other family members residing in Peshawar.

The dead body of Mir Wais could be brought in Peshawar from Kabul but it is not known whether it would be brought by road or by air. Mir Wais Jalil joined the Pushto service of BBC in Kabul in 1992. In the last two years he was threatened by the armed guards of rival Afghan factions in a bid to force him to work for their interests in ongoing battle. His house and office in Kabul was fired at with hand grenades by the forces loyal to Prof Rabbani while forces of Hikmatyar had warned him frequently.

Not a single Afghan jihadic or militia foreman has accepted the killing of Mir Wais Jalil but the Hizbe Islami of Hikmatyar accused KHAD for this act to malign the Hizbe Islami.

Following is the text of the Press statement circulated by Hizbe Islami of Hikmatyar to media: "We have learned with sorrow and regret that the KHAD in the wake of its past heinous misdeeds committed yet another crime by killing Mr Mir Wais Jalil, a BBC stringer in Kabul after visiting Charasiab, the headquarters of Hizbe Islami and interviewing Mr Hikmatyar, the Amir of Hizbe Islami."

officials of the area about the possibility of opening of a UN office in Jalalabad. He will also talk about the Kabul refugees' affairs and peace in the country.

THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

"According to the reports, we received from the security officials of the HIA, Mir Wais Jalil after having interviewed Mr Hikmatyar had departed to Kabul City via Chilstoon by a taxi cab.

He crossed the last HIA post along with an Italian journalist abroad the cab, however, his body was a few hours later soon lying near an area close to the frontlines by a passerby who reported to the security offices of HIA. The security personnel of HIA cordoned off the area and arrested a few suspects and interrogation is still continuing to pin point the culprits.

"The leadership of HIA while commiserating with the family of Mir Wais Jalil strongly condemns this savage act of state terrorism. The KHAD and Shura Nazar now working in close liaison with RAW are creating tragedies particularly in the areas where the blame of their felonies could heaped on the HIA."

It may be mentioned here that father of Mir Wais Jalil, a military doctor in the previous Kabul government, migrated to Peshawar in 1979. Now family members of Mir Wais Jalil are residing in Chshiti quarters, Abdara, University Town, Peshawar. Mir Wais always supported the Afghan Jihad.

Meanwhile, a BBC Press release said, a BBC journalist working in Afghanistan, Mir Wais Jalil, has been found dead a day after he was abducted by armed men. Mir Wais was taken from a car at gun point on Friday as he was returning from an interview with the Prime Minister Gulbadin Hikmatyar. The former BBC correspondent in Kabul, Suzy Price, who worked closely with Mir Wais for a year, reports.

Mir Wais was one of the most experienced, hardworking journalists in Afghanistan.

Although Friday is traditionally a day of rest, he agreed to accompany an Italian reporter to interview the Afghan Prime Minister, Gulbadin Hikmatyar, at his base south of the capital Kabul.

As they were driving back through an area mainly controlled by Hikmatyar's Hizbe Islami faction, their car was stopped by a group of masked men with Kalashnikovs and Mir Wais was dragged out. The other journalist and his driver were told to continue their journey. Mir Wais' body, pierced by more than 20 bullet wounds, was found in the same area on Saturday morning.

The opposing Mujahideen who have been battling for power in Kabul, have blamed each other for his death. Kabul Radio, which supports President Rabbani, said he was killed on the direct orders of Hik-

matyar. Hizbe Islami said Mir Wais was shot by members of President Rabbani's State Security Office.

Mir Wais and his family left Afghanistan and became refugees in Pakistan during the Soviet occupation. He accompanied journalists on clandestine visits to Afghanistan to visit Mujahideen groups. He had worked for the BBC's Persian and Pushto services for more than two years.

The BBC has strongly condemned his killing. A spokesman said he was a highly professional journalist who was widely respected for his accurate, impartial reporting of events in Afghanistan.

Mir Wais' body is expected to arrive in Peshawar from Kabul on Saturday night or on Sunday. His family has gathered in Peshawar and hopes to hold his funeral on Sunday.

THE NATION
LAHORE

7/31

HIA claims takeover of Khinjan Valley

PESHAWAR — The Hizbe Islami led Coordination Council claimed of capturing strategically important Khinjan Valley which is considered a gateway to Northern provinces of Afghanistan.

Ustad Qareebur Rehman Saeed, Chairman of the Information Committee in his Press release on Saturday, said that huge reserves of arms and ammunition had been captured by the Mujahideen of the Coordination Council during the operation.

He further claimed that the next move of the Supreme Coordination Council would be on Jabul Siraj, the last bastion of the RAW Hindu agents and the Bagram Air Base controlled by forces loyal to Rabbani.

Meanwhile, the sources loyal to Prof. Rabbani informed that Shura Nazar soldiers received back two helicopters in the recent fighting at Mehtarlan, headquarter of Laghman Province. They informed that the two helicopters were forcibly snatched by Commander Nasar Khan, an associate of Hizbe Islami Hikmatyar who lost his life a few days ago. Now the helicopter had landed at Bagram Air Base.

THE NATION
LAHORE

31 JUL 1994



31 JUL Afghan Consulate wins case for 'Afghan-inn'

PT Bureau

PESHAWAR, July 30: The Consulate General of Afghanistan in Peshawar has won a civil suit against Muhammad Hashim Khan, the brother of Farid Toofan, a leader of Awami National Party, who had illegally and unlawfully occupied the "Afghan Inn", located opposite Jinnah Park in Peshawar city, for last 16 years.

It is worth-mentioning here that, Muhammad Hashim Khan and his younger brother Hamidullah were serving as local employees in the Peshawar branch of Afghan National Bank. On their repeated requests, the two Pakistani nationals, who have no lodgings in the city, were allowed to reside, on temporary basis, in the two rooms of the Afghan Inn.

Muhammad Hashim Khan, who is now relieved of his duty along with his brother for continued absence from work, in July 1989 had prepared a forged lease-document for a period of 33 years, allegedly signed by Gul Agha, the then Afghan Consul.

On the basis of this fraudulent and fake "lease-document", the brother of the ANP leader had challenged the written order of Muhammad Zahir Sarmaolim, Consul of the Afghan Consulate to vacate the "Seria", in the civil court (first class), Peshawar,

praying that he should not be evicted, before the expiry of the so-called "leased" years, says a Press release issued here today by Afghan Consulate. The Afghan Consulate took up the matter with the high authorities of the government of NWFP, through diplomatic channels and through official meetings.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Consulate fought the legal battle in the civil court against the false claimant to the Afghan government property, on which the civil judge (first class), Syed Kamal Hussain Shah dismissed the case of the plaintiff, Muhammad Hashim Khan, in favour of the Consulate General of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, after hearing the arguments of the parties through their lawyers and recording the statements of the former Afghan diplomats, alleged to have given the Afghan government property "for 33-year", without having any such authority of leasing, from the Afghan government.

The Consulate General of Afghanistan has received assurances from the government authorities in Peshawar to restore the property back to the consulate, so that to further consolidate the existing ties of brotherhood between the two Muslim neighbours and solve the problem in a peaceful manner.

THE PAKISTAN TIMES
ISLAMABAD

Did Rocketi get a taste of his medicine?

By Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Mulla Abdul Salam Rocketi, the notorious Afghan who had hit the headlines for kidnapping Pakistani and Chinese nationals, has also experienced a taste of his own medicine.

Pakistani officials who were involved in the recent rescue mission in which all prisoners were freed, say that Mulla Rocketi was under arrest and kept in chains the whole time while negotiations were going on. He had been specially called by Professor Sayyaf, head of Ittehad-i-Islami to Kabul from Zabul province in southwest Afghanistan which is his stronghold. Mulla Rocketi belonged from Professor Sayyaf's group before his role as an out-law came to light. But, it was also Prof Sayyaf who played a major role in making Rocketi's mind to set his prisoners free. It was Sayyaf who assured Rocketi that if his demands were not met by Pakistan he would compensate him.

There are conflicting reports about whether Mulla Rocketi is free or still under arrest. According to some sources, the Mulla is being placed in chains for embarrassing the Rabbani government. Meanwhile other reports say that though tremendous pressure was faced by the kidnapper before the prisoners were freed, he is no longer under custody.

Meanwhile, Mulla Rocketi's demand of over Rs 6 million for the three Stinger missiles, that he gave up, is expected to surface when the

trial against former IB Chief, Brig (ret'd) Imitiaz gets underway. In the background is the claim of an Afghan freebooter that the Pakistani government had struck a deal with him that he would be paid for the three Stinger missiles that were in his possession since the Afghan Jihad. He has always claimed that the Pakistan government cheated him and without making any payment, raided his home and took away the missiles, besides destroying the household.

Officials say that in reality it was the then IB chief, Brig (ret'd) Imitiaz who without taking the ISI chief, Gen David Nasir, into confidence ordered the raid on Mulla Rocketi's house and seized the three missiles.

Officials concede that these were then handed to the Army, and they consequently "gifted" them to the CIA. Naturally Mulla Rocketi felt cheated and the very next day he picked up about 80 personnel of the FC.

Meanwhile, according to another report, at least fifteen Pakistanis languishing in jails in Kabul have been released by the Rabbani government and have returned home.

Earlier one Pakistani student had been killed while jailed in Kabul. When asked why this news of Pakistanis returning back had not been made public, the official replied, "My job was to get them back, and it should be up to the Foreign Office to make the news public".

The News 7/31

15 killed in fierce Kabul clashes

MOHAMMAD ALI IMRAN

PESHAWAR, July 30: At least 15 persons were killed and several others injured as a result of fierce fighting between Hekmatyar and Rabbani forces in and around Kabul, on Saturday.

According to reports both the sides heavily bombed and shelled each others positions resulting heavy loss of life and property to the forces of the Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan (SCCIRA) as well as the Rabbani forces.

According to Coordination Council sources in Peshawar the

SCCIRA forces have captured Khenjan province in the north of Afghanistan which was in possession of Rabbani forces.

The sources also claimed capturing of Jabal-us-Siraj, a strong hold of Ahmed Shah Masood, a close ally of Prof Rabbani. The victory of Khenjan, sources added, was of extreme importance for the Coordination Council forces. The sources said that from the said position they would easily target the Rabbani forces.

The sources further said that Rabbani and his allies had totally lost their grip over Badakhshan and Kunduz provinces while the other provinces including Baghlan, Samangan, Jowzjan and Fariab were also in the possession of the Coordination Council.



According to Hezbe-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) sources at least 30 persons belonging to Rabbani forces were killed while 30 were arrested by the Council forces.

THE MUSLIM
ISLAMABAD

7/31

AFGHANISTAN FORUM

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACBAR - Agency Coordinating Bureau for Afghan Relief
ARIC - Afghanistan Resource & Information Centre
BIA - Bakhtar Information Agency
CSM - Christian Science Monitor
FBIS - Foreign Broadcasting Information Service
FRG - Federal Republic of Germany
ICRC - Int'l Committee of the Red Cross
KT - Kabul Times
LAT - Los Angeles Times
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NWFP - Northwest Frontier Province
NYT - New York Times
OIC - Organization of Islamic Conference
PCV - Peace Corps Volunteer
PT - Pakistan Times
PVO - Private Voluntary Organization
UNGA - United Nations General Assembly
UNOCA - United Nations Office of the Commissioner for
Afghanistan (sometimes UNOCHA)
UNHCR - United Nations High Commission for Refugees
USAID - United States Agency for Int'l Development
WSJ - Wall Street Journal

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